

197
BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st,

1958



1959

D. W. Jones (Printers) Ltd.,
Port Talbot 106933

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STAFFS

Medical Officer of Health.

D. H. J. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health, Glyncorrwg Urban District Council and Divisional Medical Officer, Glamorgan County Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector.

G. A. MORGAN (C.R.S.H. as Public Health Inspector; C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector; C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector; C.R.S.H. School Hygiene and Physiology; Diploma, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene; Certificate, School Hygiene, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene; Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales). Fellow Royal Society of Health. Fellow Association of Public Health Inspectors.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

L. J. CARTER (C.S.I.B., as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector).

I. G. HEYCOCK (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector).

L. MORGAN (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector, also Diploma as Smoke Inspector of Royal Society of Health).

W. E. DAVIES (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector).

R. M. DAVIES (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector).

Drain-tester and Disinfecter.

W. G. DAVID.

Rodent Operative.

D. MAINWARING.

Clerk.

Miss VALERIE M. THOMAS.

Clerk.

Miss AVRYL M. REID.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Port Talbot.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen.

In accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health as contained in Circular 22/1958 (Wales) from the Welsh Board of Health, I have pleasure in presenting for the consideration of Council the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

Year by year the population estimate, like the rateable value and the product of the penny rate, continues to rise. More and more babies are born and the death rate remains steady. There are signs of expansion and prosperity.

Our major industry continues to grow but thanks to the care and vigilance of the company the smoke and grit nuisance, as will be seen from the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector has been kept within bounds.

There was in 1958 a slight but significant increase in the figure of unemployment submitted by the Ministry of Labour but there was no significant drop in the number of television aerials that form a forest over our housing estates.

Although the waiting list for Council houses is again creeping up towards the 2,000 mark, it is understood that the list of garage applicants is likewise formidable.

The notorious Port Talbot traffic jam is now worse than ever. At certain periods each and every day it can take anything up to three quarters of an hour to travel three quarters of a mile in the main street of the town. The bottle neck constitutes a subject for each succeeding Mayor to discuss at Mayor making and the various civic functions, but the jokes and cliches are getting progressively more threadbare. The time lost, the energy wasted, the ulcers aggravated and the worry caused to Ambulance patients caught up in the chaos are beyond description. It is said that in 1960 a start will be made on the Port Talbot By-Pass. Through traffic will then be able to skirt the town, it is hoped, relieving the congestion in some measure.

The sea wall development continued apace and the improved amenities attracted an increasing number of visitors to the borough. Only three blots remain on an otherwise perfect beach—the north breakwater and the two wrecks, each a source of mortal danger to young and old alike.

The establishment of a Municipal Caravan Site has provided Summer accommodation for countless happy holiday-makers. Its occupation in the winter and the introduction of permanent dwellers have brought many problems, to be tackled now and guarded against during the preparation of the permanent site.

With the drop in the number of houses built and allocated during the period under review, a slight draught was experienced in the furniture stores, although hire purchase facilities have helped to maintain trade.

In these introductory remarks, I have touched briefly on certain facets of life in the borough that do not at first glance appear very closely related to Health. A little thought on the part of the reader will, however, quickly bring the realisation that all environmental factors have a bearing on health and require close surveillance in the establishment and promotion of an even higher standard of Public Health.

Generally speaking therefore the year under review was prosperous. The wage packets were good and the standard of living was higher than ever before. Under such conditions the general standard of health should be higher and this was true for 1958 as may be seen by perusal of the facts and figures presented in the body of this report.

In conclusion I would like to thank you Mr. Mayor, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and all members of the Council for your encouragement during the year, to my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation and to Mr. G. A. Morgan, the Chief Public Health Inspector and all the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal and undivided support at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. J. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Dept.,
Park House,
Theodore Road,
Port Talbot.

Port Talbot 2137/8.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1958.

Area of Borough (inclusive of foreshore)	25,648 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimated mid-year, 1958)	48,380
Rateable value at 31st March, 1958	£921,419
Product of Penny Rate for year ended 31st March, 1958	£3,795
Rainfall in inches at Town Centre	52.06
Number of Houses erected in 1958	191
(i) By Local Authority	156
(ii) By other bodies or persons	35
Number of houses connected to Corporation Mains Water Supply	14,350
Number of houses supplied from standpipes	38
Average daily consumption of water per person in gallons	29

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	523	.....	455	..... 978
Illegitimate	9	.....	15	..... 24
Total number of live births	532	.....	470	..... 1002

	Crude	Adjusted
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	20.71	..... 19.67
Live birth rate for England and Wales	16.4 —

Still Births.

	Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	11	.....	21	..... 32
Illegitimate	1	.....	1	..... 2
Total number of stillbirths	12	.....	22	..... 34

The following table is of interest :—

Number of live births at home in the Borough	430
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Neath General Hospital	490
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Bridgend General and other hospitals	82

Of all live births 57% occurred in hospital. In 1957 the percentage births in hospital was 55 and in 1956, 54.

Hospital Maternity Beds.

In my annual report for 1957 details were given of the hospital maternity bed situation as it affected the Port Talbot and Glyn-corrwg area. In this report it is felt that the situation should be kept under review and to this end, I append below the numbers of hospital bed applications together with the number of cases refused each month during the two years.

Applications for Non-Emergency Hospital Beds.

Patients due to be confined during	1957.		1958.	
	Applications received.	No. refused.	Applications received.	No. refused.
January	60	15	65	19
February	54	9	55	9
March	62	17	88	41
April	58	13	47	2
May	55	10	67	20
June	55	10	45	Nil
July	57	12	56	9
August	52	17*	69	18
September	59	34*	63	19
October	49	8*	65	16
November	46	1	62	15
December	53	8	51	5

* Maternity Department at Neath General Hospital being re-decorated.

During 1958 it will be seen that only during the month of June was the bed availability adequate to meet the demand whilst the month of March produced the highest known total of refusals.

Deaths.

Deaths from all causes in the area (Male 284
Female 243) 527

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population
Crude, 10.89 Adjusted 14.37

Death rate for England and Wales Crude 11.7

The death rate for the past nine years is summarised below:—

1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
10.57	10.52	10.95	9.97	11.09	9.57	12.39	11.7	11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

- There was one death from puerperal causes during 1958.
- 1a. Eclampsia.
 2. Twin pregnancy. Retained placenta.

Infant Mortality.

Neonatal Deaths—27. Neonatal Death rate per 1,000 Live births—26.95.

Cause of Death	First 24 hours of life	One day— One month
Prematurity	6	2
Spina bifida	—	4
Congenital heart disease	—	2
Congestive diaphragmatic hernia	1	—
Broncho pneumonia	—	2
Cerebral haemorrhage—breech delivery	1	—
Microcephaly and cervical meningocele	—	1
Meningitis—Prematurity	—	2
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	—
Cerebral damage—Anoxia. Prolonged re- suscitation at birth	—	1
Atelectasis	2	—
Hydrocephalus—Prematurity	—	1
Anencephaly	1	—
Total	12	15

Deaths during one month to one year of age—11.

Cardiac failure	1
Broncho pneumonia. Spina bifida	1
Multiple liver abscesses. Umbilical sepsis (healed)	1
Congenital hydrocephalus. Spina bifida	1
Misadventure	1
Acute trachio bronchitis	1
Broncho pneumonia	2
Staphylococcal pneumonia	1
Fibrocystic disease of pancreas	1
Accident	1

For comparison purposes I append below the Infant Mortality rate for the Borough for the last ten years :—

1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
37.92	38.93	28.31	34.21	22.78	19.4	29.06	30.6	33.8	54.8

Deaths (all Ages).

The main causes of death in the Borough during 1958 were:—

1. Cardiovascular conditions	168
2. Cancers of various kinds	89
3. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	84
4. Respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis and Cancer)	63
5. Tuberculosis	7
6. Accidents	25

There were 13 deaths due to cancer of the lung, 11 amongst males and 2 amongst females.

This compares with:—13 deaths (11 males, 2 females) in 1957.

Of the one hundred and sixty-eight deaths from cardiovascular conditions, 65 were attributed to coronary disease. 35 men and 30 women died of coronary disease. In the previous year there were 79 deaths from coronary disease, 59 being males and 20 being females.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS DURING 1958

as recorded by the Registrar General.

	M	F
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	4
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease	2	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	—
10 Cancer of stomach	15	7
11 Cancer of lung	11	2
12 Cancer of breast	—	5
13 Cancer of uterus	—	6
14 Other forms of cancer	21	20
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	—
16 Diabetes	—	4
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	41	43
18 Coronary disease, angina	35	30
19 Hypertension with heart disease	4	4
20 Other heart disease	35	39
21 Other circulatory disease	10	11
22 Influenza	3	—
23 Pneumonia	10	6
24 Bronchitis	31	6
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	3	4
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	7
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
31 Congenital malformations	8	7
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23	19
33 Motor vehicle accidents	5	3
34 All other accidents	9	8
35 Suicide	3	7
36 Homicide and operations of war	—	—

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1958.

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)												
	Estimated Population 1958	Number of Births	BIRTHS		Number of Deaths	DEATHS		INFANT Deaths under 1 Year	MORTALITY Rate per 1000 Live Births	NEO-NATAL MORTALITY		
			Rate per 1,000 Population			Rate per 1,000 Population				Deaths under 4 weeks	Rate per 1000 Live Births	
			Crude	Adjusted		Crude	Adjusted					
England & Wales		738,323	16.4	—	526,792	11.7	—	16,620	22.50	—	—	
Administrative County	743,100	12,243	16.48	16.32	8,829	11.88	13.66	353	28.83	251	20.50	
Urban Districts	535,600	8,841	16.51	16.18	6,366	11.89	13.79	265	29.97	189	21.38	
Rural Districts	207,500	3,402	16.40	16.73	2,463	11.87	13.18	88	25.87	62	18.22	
HEALTH DIVISION.												
CONSTITUENT DISTRICTS.												
Aberdare and Mountain Ash—												
Aberdare Urban	39,860	564	14.15	14.57	591	14.83	15.27	16	28.37	13	23.05	
Mountain Ash Urban	30,540	505	16.54	16.37	345	11.30	13.67	24	47.52	16	31.68	
Caerphilly and Gelligaer—												
Caerphilly Urban	37,570	701	18.66	17.73	380	10.11	12.84	16	22.82	11	15.69	
Gelligaer Urban	36,300	647	17.82	18.35	384	10.58	13.33	18	27.82	15	23.18	
Mid-Glamorgan—												
Bridgend Urban	14,580	258	17.70	16.82	170	11.66	12.48	6	23.26	5	19.38	
Maesteg Urban	22,720	386	16.99	16.99	243	10.70	13.48	12	31.09	7	18.13	
Ogmore & Garw Urban	22,070	385	17.44	17.44	252	11.42	13.82	11	28.57	9	23.38	
Porthcawl Urban	10,500	155	14.76	14.61	160	15.24	14.02	2	12.90	2	12.90	
Penybont Rural	36,500	635	17.40	18.10	515	14.11	13.40	21	33.07	14	22.05	
Neath and District—												
Neath M.B.	31,050	491	15.81	14.70	390	12.56	14.19	17	34.62	12	24.44	
Neath Rural	41,440	631	15.23	14.93	450	10.86	13.79	14	22.19	8	12.68	
Pontypridd and Llantrisant—												
Llantrisant Rural	25,930	483	18.63	17.88	282	10.88	13.93	15	31.06	11	22.77	
Pontypridd Urban	37,550	579	15.42	14.80	472	12.57	13.53	14	24.18	12	20.73	
Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg—												
Glyncoirwg Urban	9,900	205	20.71	20.30	104	10.51	15.03	7	34.15	5	24.39	
Port Talbot M.B.	48,380	1,002	20.71	19.67	527	10.89	14.37	38	37.92	27	26.95	
South East Glamorgan—												
Barry M.B.	42,160	745	17.67	16.96	440	10.44	11.48	21	28.19	13	17.45	
Cardiff Rural	40,830	678	16.61	16.94	472	11.56	10.64	16	23.6	13	19.17	
Cowbridge M.B.	1,000	11	11.00	11.44	14	14.00	14.56	—	—	—	—	
Cowbridge Rural	19,050	358	18.79	20.86	133	6.98	12.15	10	27.93	7	19.55	
Penarth Urban	19,280	307	15.92	15.76	247	12.81	11.66	7	22.80	6	19.54	
West Glamorgan—												
Gower Rural	12,000	191	15.92	16.72	160	13.33	12.26	4	20.94	2	10.47	
Llwchwr Urban	25,740	319	12.39	12.64	290	11.27	13.19	8	25.08	6	18.81	
Pontardawe Rural	31,750	426	13.42	13.55	451	14.20	15.48	8	18.78	7	16.43	
Rhondda—												
Rhondda M.B.	106,400	1,581	14.86	14.56	1,357	12.75	14.79	48	30.36	30	18.98	



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease during 1958 as compared with 1955, 1956 and 1957.

Disease.	1955	1956	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	25	48	27	140
Whooping Cough	63	131	107	9
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Measles	1132	63	1156	115
Meningococcal Infection	4	4	3	3
Dysentery	3	4	4	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—
Peurperal Pyrexia	4	5	1	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B.	2	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	4	2	3
Malaria	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	2	1
Food Poisoning	3	3	3	2
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (infectious)	—	—	—	—

Distribution by Wards.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Polio	Pul. T.B.	Non-Pul. T.B.
Margam West	10	—	9	—	7	—
Margam Central	11	—	14	—	13	—
Margam North	2	—	2	—	—	—
Aberavon South	95	5	69	1	12	1
Aberavon North	19	3	15	—	5	—
Cwmavon	3	1	5	—	5	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

In 1958, the number of Scarlet Fever notifications rose to a total of 140. This was a comparatively high figure when it is realised that scarlet fever frequently takes a very mild course and that the rash may be transient with minimal peeling or sequelae. So far the causative organism is sensitive to one or other of the antibiotic drugs available. However, sight must not be lost of the possibility of antibiotic resistant strains developing. Indeed, the Staphylococcus is already manifesting resistant strains to the distress and anxiety of hospital authorities up and down the country.

Poliomyelitis.

One case of paralytic poliomyelitis was notified during the year. This occurred in an unprotected child. During the investigation that followed the notification, the child's mother stated that although the offer of vaccination protection had been made to her she had been nervous of having it done and had preferred "to wait and see how it went with other children first." Fortunately for the child the residual paralysis was minimal and he is today leading an active life under periodic orthopaedic surveillance.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1958, the programme of vaccination against poliomyelitis was expanded and an ever increasing stream of consents and vaccination requests were received at the Divisional Office.

It is interesting to record that 8,084 persons in the eligible groups received two injections, 3,159 received their third injection, a further 747 persons had made a start with their first injection whilst the register of persons awaiting their vaccination on the 31st December amounted to 197.

Broken down into simple figures this means that during 1958 something like twenty thousand appointments were kept and injections given in this area alone. I am glad to be able to record that this feat was accomplished through the harmonious and prodigious effort of very willing medical, nursing and clerical staffs.

Tuberculosis—B.C.G. Vaccination.

Although much of the time of the staff was this year taken up with anti-poliomyelitis vaccination, the protection of the eligible age group of school leavers was not neglected.

In this area the parents of 536 children agreed to the necessary skin test and this was carried out in the schools. Of this number, 391 children were found to need vaccination of which 389 finally submitted to vaccination.

As has previously been reported, the school leaver is very vulnerable to Tuberculous infection. The administration of B.C.G. vaccination, where appropriate, serves to build up a resistance during the danger transitional period. Our purpose therefore is by visiting the schools and protecting this age group each year, to send out into the world a group of immune individuals. Within the foreseeable future it is hoped the scourge of tuberculosis will be a thing of the past, read about in textbooks but rarely seen.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Whilst anti-poliomyelitis vaccination seems to be "the thing" sight was not lost of the need to preserve the rate of immunisation against diphtheria. To this end, 615 children, of whom 429 were under the age of one year completed their course of injections. In addition some 264 children received their booster dose on entry into school.

Whooping Cough Vaccination.

The year under review was remarkable for the small number (9 only) of whooping cough notifications received in the department. The protective vaccination programme was maintained during the year, 662 children completing their course of injections.

Smallpox Vaccination.

Although no cases of Smallpox have occurred in the area for many years, the vaccination programme continues and it is pleasing to report that in the Division into which Port Talbot falls, 516 vaccinations were carried out during the period under review. Of these 407 were children under the age of one year.

Tuberculosis.

I append below particulars of the number of cases on the tuberculosis register at the beginning and at the end of the year, together with details of the notifications broken down into the various age groups.

Number of cases on Register on 1st January, 1958—559.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary	230	242
Non-Pulmonary	43	44
Total	273	286

Number of cases on Register on 31st December, 1958—539.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary	228	245
Non-Pulmonary	29	37
Total	257	282
Number left district		17
Number died		12
Number recovered		45
Number removed from Register—Diagnosis not confirmed		2
Total		76
Number of New notifications		44
Number of In-Transfers		12
Number restored to Register		—
Total		56

New cases during 1958 :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
Over 1 year and under 5 years	—	—	—	—
Over 5 years and under 10 years	1	—	1	—
Over 10 years and under 15 years	1	—	—	—
Over 15 years and under 20 years	—	4	—	1
Over 20 years and under 25 years	—	6	—	—
Over 25 years and under 35 years	6	3	—	—
Over 35 years and under 45 years	4	3	—	—
Over 45 years and under 55 years	4	2	—	—
Over 55 years and under 65 years	4	—	—	—
Over 65 years	2	1	—	—
Totals	22	19	1	1

Disinfection.

A high proportion of cases of infectious illness are admitted to hospital for isolation and treatment. This is applicable in particular to Scarlet Fever, Meningococcal Infection, Dysentery, Peurperal Pyrexia, Paratyphoid B., Erysipelas, Poliomyelitis and, when the symptom and signs of a severe nature Food Poisoning.

Arrangements are made during the initial domiciliary investigation for disinfection of the room, bedding and necessary articles of the patient. The bedding, etc., is transported by the department's disinfection transport to and from the Groeswen Hospital where, by arrangement with the hospital authority, steam disinfection is carried out.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

In my Annual Report for 1957, the Health Services provided in accordance with Statutory requirements were described. In this report I would like to detail some of the services provided by the Local Health Authority.

As members will know, the Borough falls within the boundary of the Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg Health Division, indeed its population comprises practically four fifths of the Division. The submission below of the Divisional figures will therefore not be confusing when it is realised that the figures exclusively applicable to the borough will approximate very closely to four-fifths of the totals.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

Out of a total of 556 domiciliary confinements, a doctor was present at only 26. Gas and air anaesthesia was administered for the relief of pain and discomfort in 422 cases. Pethidine was administered in 270 cases and 127 mothers also took advantage of the availability of Trilene anaesthesia.

Domiciliary Nursing Service.

The Home Nurses in the Division attended a total of 1,568 patients made up as follows—1,079 Medical, 348 Surgical, 118 Tuberculosis, 18 Maternal and 5 others. As many cases required more than one visit it is interesting to note that a grand total of 46,878 domiciliary visits and treatments were carried out during the period under review.

Medical Comforts.

During the year 423 issues were made. Items in greatest demand were air rings (47), Bed-Pans (74), Bed Rests (57), Rubber Sheets (89) and invalid chairs (33). It should of course be pointed out that the above figures apply to actual issues made during the year. The total number of items actually in use far exceeds this figure.

Home Help Service.

A team of fifty-four Part-time and Casual Home Helps are employed in the Division. The types of cases where Home Help was provided during the year is as follows: Maternity 12; Tuberculosis 2; Chronic Sick 53; Aged and Infirm 139; Acute Sick 4; and Blind 18. Twenty-eight recipients paid the whole fee charged, forty-five were charged a part fee whilst one hundred and fifty-five, due to their circumstances in life, received the service free.

Clinic Services.

Owing to the continued growth of the Sandfields Housing Estate, it became necessary to expand the Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinic arrangements during the year. Three whole days are now given over to ante-natal and Infant Welfare work at the Dew Road Clinic.

In the Division, a total of 1,234 new ante-natal and 71 post-natal cases attended the clinics, the total number of visits amounting to 6,939. It should, I feel, be pointed out that each and every case was thoroughly examined by a fully trained Medical Officer at every visit.

The Infant Welfare Clinics were no less busy. Visits amounting to 13,003 by children under the age of one year, 2,221 by children between one and two years and 3,406 by children between two and five years were paid to the Clinics. This amounted to a grand total of 18,630.

Health Visitors.

Whilst a certain amount of the Health Visitor's time is taken up in the Clinic, she spends a not inconsiderable part of her time—as her title implies—visiting the homes of young and old alike. Unfortunately, owing to serious undermanning, the Health Visitor's case load is too great to allow of the fullest application of her specialised training in her chosen field of endeavour.

During the year the following total visits were paid by Health Visitors in this division, 643 to Expectant Mothers; 4,677 to children under one year; 2,444 to children between one and two years; 6,047 to children between two and five years and 1,761 to tuberculous households. These figures do not include the home visits paid by Health Visitors in their capacity as School Nurses.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Removal of Person in need of Care and Attention.

Towards the end of the period under review, my attention was drawn to the conditions under which an aged maiden lady was living and after due consideration and all other attempts to relieve her distress having failed, it became necessary to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

The patient who had lived entirely alone was removed to a Hostel maintained by the Welfare Services Department of the Glamorgan County Council where, I am pleased to report, she is now very comfortably and happily established. Indeed, her mental and corporeal faculties are greatly improved and she has asked to be allowed to remain at the Hostel on a voluntary basis.

HOUSING.

During 1958, 191 permanent houses were completed of which 156 were built by the Council and 35 by other bodies or persons.

In order that easy comparison may be made I give below the figures for the past nine years in tabulated form.

Year.	Houses Completed by Local Authority.	Houses Completed by others.	Total
1958	156	35	191
1957	454	48	502
1956	287	66	353
1955	420	63	483
1954	642	55	697
1953	630	32	662
1952	575	—	575
1951	505	—	505
1950	38	—	38

The waiting list for re-housing by the Local Authority remains high. At the end of 1958 the Housing Manager states that 1,865 names remained on his file.

This compares with the waiting list for previous years thus:—

December 31st, 1957	1,695
„ „ 1956	1,834
„ „ 1955	1,699
„ „ 1954	1,540
„ „ 1953	1,650
„ „ 1952	1,340
„ „ 1951	1,732
„ „ 1950	1,940

Re-housing is effected by one of three different methods. By allocation to incoming key workers, by allocation to families from condemned houses and by allocation via the impartial and careful administration of a points scheme.

I give below a table that gives an indication of some of the special categories of applicants where re-housing was effected during the period under review.

Families suffering from or exposed to Tuberculosis	9
Families from Condemned Houses	25
Families from squatters camps	1
Families from overcrowded houses	7
Key Workers in Industry	22

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding within the meaning of the Act were brought to the notice of the Department during the period under review.

WATER SUPPLIES.

In my Annual Report for 1957, the section devoted to the Borough Water Supply was introduced by the following paragraph.

“Alive to the increasingly urgent need to provide an adequate and plentiful supply of water to satisfy the requirements of domestic and industrial expansion, Council has continued negotiations with the neighbouring Borough of Neath with a view to the construction of a joint reservoir at the head of the Neath Valley. Having regard to all the factors involved the “Go Ahead” signal cannot come too soon.”

At the time of preparation of this report the signal to proceed has not yet been given. Indeed, the Reservoir scheme now appears to be receding into the background in favour of a considerably less expensive but it is suggested equally effective abstraction scheme. With the water to domestic consumers shut off for all but four short hours daily, with pressures reduced to trickle levels in order to maintain a supply to industry, with Waterworks Committee Chairmen and Engineers dreading even short spells of fine sunny weather, the time for action must surely be drawing near.

During 1958, further tests were conducted and agreement was reached on the purification and abstraction of water from the Ffrwdwyllt River at Tynyfferm. Stellar filtration and pumping plant was ordered to be installed in time to meet any emergencies that might occur in 1959. Experience has since shown that these arrangements were made none too soon but more on this in my report for 1959.

For details of the sampling carried out, reference should be made to the Chief Public Health Inspector's Section of this Report.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Undertaken by a specialised team under the direction of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, refuse collection and disposal has been maintained at a high level of efficiency throughout the year. Collection varies from daily to once weekly. Domestic refuse is removed without charge.

I am glad to report that more dust bins are being used to house refuse prior to collection, although I understand the Engineer is experiencing a little difficulty in persuading all the users to discard their paint drums, tin baths and odd pails in certain parts of the borough.

There is now very little surreptitious dumping on the river banks although one or two housewives, who should know better, and who themselves dislike rats, still indulge in the obnoxious habit of quietly dumping ashes, potato and vegetable peelings, etc., on to the river bank thus fostering the rodent population they claim to dislike so greatly.

An interesting experiment in the provision of humus on the sand behind the sea wall by the dumping of refuse prior to soiling and seeding received the blessing of Council. The results as seen during the Summer of 1959 have more than repaid the foresight of the experimenters. Bushes, shrubs and lawns are taking root and flourishing to the joy and pleasure of all.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Whilst a considerable area of the borough is linked up with the Glyncoirwg Urban District and the Steel Company of Wales in disposal of sewage by means of the joint outfall beyond the Morfa Beach, much of Aberavon and the new Sandfields Housing estate discharge their slops and sewage crude into the estuary of the River Afan.

This is causing me a progressive concern and this concern will be shared by Members when it is realised that more and more filth builds up in the estuary to be washed out to sea and along the sands of the sea shore. Enlightened Authorities along the South coast are already concerned at the worsening conditions along their sea boards and it may well be time when the Authorities discharging into the Swansea Bay should examine their responsibilities and liabilities. A solution of the more immediate problem in the borough might be the linking up of the Sandfields and Aberavon sewers with the feeders of the Joint Outfall. The water of the estuary and along the beach would be much sweeter were that done.

I believe, and many share my belief, that the day will come when the discharge of untreated sewage into the estuaries of our rivers and along the sea shore will be prohibited, at some cost perhaps, but for the ultimate benefit and well being of all concerned.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Education.

The following information has been provided by Mr. Eben Jones, the Divisional Executive Officer :—

1. Total average number of pupils attending primary and secondary schools in the Borough during 1958	9234
2. Total average number of pupils receiving school meals during 1958	1870
3. Total average number of pupils receiving milk in school during 1958	7203

Children's Department.

Miss Beti Jones, the Glamorgan County Council Children's Officer has kindly supplied the following details :—

1. Number of children admitted to Children's Homes in 1958	15
2. Number of children admitted to Approved Schools in 1958	5

Juvenile Court.

Mr. P. H. R. Thomas, the Clerk to the Court, states that 260 children between the ages of eight and seventeen years were brought before the Juvenile Court during 1958.

Welfare Services. Part III—Accommodation.

14 persons from Port Talbot were admitted to County Council Hostels during 1958.

Employment of Disabled Persons.

Of all persons registered as disabled, only 27 men and 3 women were wholly unemployed, 36 men and 1 woman having been placed in suitable employment during the period.

I append below details of the unemployment figures for Port Talbot for the past ten years:—

	Males.	Females.
December, 1949	168	162
„ 1950	77	151
„ 1951	61	50
„ 1952	76	61
„ 1953	80	30
„ 1954	77	39
„ 1955	60	41
„ 1956	89	43
„ 1957	87	51
„ 1958	230	123

Industrial Medical and Amenity Services.

Mr. David J. Young, Director and Secretary of the Steel Company of Wales has very kindly supplied the following information on the Medical and Amenity Services provided by his Company for inclusion in this Report.

(1) STRENGTH OF LABOUR EMPLOYED (as at 28/12/58).

Operational	11,713
Staff	3,808
Total	15,521

(2) PERCENTAGE OF REGISTERED DISABLED PERSONS.

2.9% as at 28th December, 1958.

(3) NUMBER AND EXTENT OF CANTEENS PROVIDED.

There are now 21 canteens operating as follows :—

2 staff canteens serving staff only	day shift only
7 canteens serving staff and operatives	„
3 canteens serving contractors	day shift only
7 canteens serving staff and operatives	three shifts
2 canteens serving staff and operatives	two shifts

Tea and biscuits are available to all staff in General Office every working morning and afternoon.

All canteens serve breakfast, main meals, light teas, hot and cold beverages, snacks, etc., cigarettes and confectionery. Also packed meals by means of Vendepac Machines which are installed in most departments.

All canteens except the two Staff Canteens, are operated by vending machines.

(4) EXTENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF WELFARE ACTIVITIES AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

(a) MEDICAL DEPARTMENT :

Staff.—1 Resident Doctor—whole time.

1 Asst. Resident Doctor—whole time.

4 Local Doctors—part time.

1 Physiotherapist-in-charge.

1 Asst. Physiotherapist (mainly for Margam Works).

18 Male State Registered Nurses.

12 Female State Registered Nurses.

16 Ambulancemen (these are trained up to the Standard of the St. John's Certificate).

4 Ambulance Drivers (these are also trained up to St. John's standard).

Ambulance Rooms.

At the Abbey Works there are three Ambulance Rooms manned whole time and one which has just been completed will be occupied as from Tuesday, 28th April, 1959.

At the Margam Works there are two Ambulance Rooms manned twenty-four hours per day. At one of these are X-ray facilities, the Assistant Resident Doctor, and the Assistant Physiotherapist who holds clinics there during the day time.

At Port Talbot there is one Ambulance Room manned twenty-four hours per day.

In addition, in the Abbey General Offices (manned 5½ days per week during normal office hours (there is the medical headquarters with nursing staff, X-ray and physiotherapy facilities.

(b) AMENITIES DEPARTMENT :

There are 30 Amenity blocks with separate dining rooms for staff and operatives plus lockers. Lockers have been issued to 12,000 employees; shower and wash basin rooms and lavatories. In addition there are 43 Mess Rooms suitably equipped.

For cleaning of amenities a staff of 162 women cleaners and 180 janitors is employed.

(c) SAFETY AND WELFARE :

The maintenance of safety and a high standard of working conditions throughout the plant is regularly emphasised as one of the important responsibilities of departmental management throughout the works. Departmental managers have available to assist them in this respect a Chief Welfare and Safety Officer and six full-time Safety Officers.

There are Accident Prevention Committees on which members of the Management and employees sit together, and a Central Accident Prevention Committee deals with general questions remitted to it by the Departmental Committees, and with the broader aspects of accident prevention policy.

The Company has a well-equipped Sports Ground with all facilities for the usual sports and games together with a Social Club.

BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st,

1958



BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Port Talbot.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year 1958. This is the twenty-fourth of a series of such reports that I have had the pleasure to provide upon the work of your Sanitary Department.

The year under review proved interesting and progressive in connection with your environmental services. Our work is rarely spectacular and is hardly ever "news," unless, of course, something goes wrong. The aim of the department is to endeavour conscientiously to improve and maintain a high standard of sanitary administration in relation to the environmental conditions. The vigilance displayed by the officers of my department in this respect have an important bearing upon the health, comfort and well-being of our citizens.

Housing conditions continued to receive our attention. Much was achieved in alleviating the conditions under which people live. Four Public Inquiries were recently held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, following Orders made by Council to acquire and clear 113 houses scheduled in our Second Year Slum Clearance Programme. I would, however, urge upon Council the need for a quickening of its building of new houses to rehouse those living in unfit houses included in our First Year Programme, the orders for which were the subject of a Public Inquiry in December, 1957, and which were confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in March, 1958.

Much of the time of your officers was also devoted to meat and food inspection. A re-survey of all food premises within the Borough was undertaken during the year and our records brought up to date.

We also continued to be vigilant in respect of atmospheric pollution. It was gratifying to find a reduction in the monthly average figures of grit and dust pollution recorded at the three stations, during 1958. It must, however, be realised that not until 1958 did these average monthly figures fall below those of 1953, and that even the monthly average figure for 1958 of 42.27 tons per square mile is still too high. The pollution in the Taibach area, however, for each of the last six years has continued to be double that recorded within both the Aberavon and Town areas. With the coming into operation of the Alkali Works Order, 1958, the control of pollution from certain processes within the Borough was transferred to the Alkali Inspectorate. There is, however, complete liason and co-operation between the Alkali Inspectorate and your officers.

The presentation of this report affords me an opportunity, once again, to thank Council and its Public Health Committee for their encouragement, understanding and support in pursuing the promotion of proper standards of environmental conditions within the Borough; of expressing my appreciation to the Chief Officers of Council Departments for their very cordial co-operation throughout the year on matters of mutual interest; and to the members of the staff of your Sanitary Department for their continued loyalty and good service.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. MORGAN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Report of Mr. G. A. Morgan, Chief Public Health Inspector
and Inspector under the Factories and Housing Acts.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Housing Inspections and re-inspections	3094
Structural Defects	2271
Drains, yards, W.C.'s	3354
Common Lodging Houses	63
Amusement houses and cinemas	51
Verminous premises	302
Dirty conditions	196
Accumulations	134
Ash pits, privies and cesspools	29
Tents, vans and sheds	111
Dairies and milk shops	86
Food premises, kitchens and vehicles	2743
Public Houses	94
Houses let in lodgings, tenements, etc.	45
Offensive trades	48
Fish fryers	39
Ice-cream premises, etc.	187
Bakehouses	83
Factories	1052
Schools	49
Pig-styes and pigs	105
Stables, refuse and manure	17
Rats and mice	5653
Atmospheric Pollution	401
Animals improperly kept	47
Meat and Food inspection	2415
Slaughterhouse	653
Water supplies	348
Water sampling	298
Food and Drugs Sampling	340
Milk sampling	94
Other nuisances	61
Public Conveniences	48
Interviews	768
Infectious diseases	181
Police Court attendances	6
Shops, offices, etc.	829
Overcrowding	21
Total	25216

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	876
Number of visits of inspection in respect of same.....	2917
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation	113
Number of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation	398
Number of houses rendered fit after service of Notices	463

Some of the houses found not in all respects fit for habitation in the latter part of 1958 would not be rendered fit until sometime in 1959, whereas some of the houses rendered fit in 1958 followed notices served in the latter part of 1957.

The number of nuisances discovered, together with the number of Notices served during the year were as follows :—

Nature of Inspection	Nuisances discovered	Informal Notices served	Abatement Notices served
Structural defects	247	247	104
Drains, yards, W.C.s.	279	279	85
Dirty conditions	25	25	6
Pig styes and swine keeping	23	23	7
Water supplies	74	74	24
Food premises	11	11	—
Rats and mice	599	5	—
Accumulations	31	31	6
Verminous infestations	22	8	—
Factories	25	25	—
Tenements	7	7	2
Dairies	1	1	—
Stables, manure and refuse	12	12	4
Animals improperly kept	11	11	2
Shops and offices	9	9	3
Tents, vans and sheds	16	16	6
Offensive trades	1	1	—
Schools	2	2	—
Totals	1395	787	249

The work carried out to abate the various nuisances and contraventions was as follows:—

Nature of work done:

Houses :

Walls repointed—6, Walls repaired—19, Outside plastering repaired—21, Inside plastering repaired—74, Floors renewed or repaired—33, Floors ventilated—4, Roofs renewed or repaired—86, Chutes, downpipes or gutters renewed or repaired—81, Chimneys repaired—10, Ceilings repaired—29, Doors and frames repaired—35, Lighting and ventilation of rooms improved—1, Window sashes or frames renewed or repaired—63, Window cords renewed—36, Staircases repaired—4, Grates or ovens repaired or

renewed—10, Boilers provided or repaired—2, Food stores provided or improved—1, Outbuildings repaired—3, Walls or ceilings cleansed and re-decorated—3, Bedding cleansed or destroyed—32, Rooms treated for vermin—46, Yard paving relaid or repaired—17, Nuisances from animals abated—11, Accumulations removed—31, Water supply provided—3, Water taps or pipes renewed—61, Weatherboards repaired or renewed—4, Dirty conditions eradicated—25, Yard gates repaired or renewed—4, Ventilation improved—1, Window sills renewed or repaired—4, Miscellaneous repairs—11, Skirting boards repaired or renewed 24.

Drainage :

Drains tested (smoke)—18, Drains tested (chemicals)—12, Drains relaid—26, Drains repaired or altered—34, Drains cleansed—39, Inspecting or intercepting chambers provided or repaired—2, Intercepting traps fixed—1, Soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed or repaired—14, Gullies fixed—3, Sinks trapped or wastepipes repaired—11, Bath wastes trapped or repaired—4, Wash-hand basins trapped or wastepipes repaired—6, New drains laid—4, Washup sinks provided—3.

Toilets and Fittings, etc. :

W.C.'s. reconstructed—2, Lighting and ventilation improved—4, New pans and traps fixed—14, W.C.'s. cleansed—2, Flushing apparatus provided—3, Flushing apparatus repaired—9, Miscellaneous repairs—14, Seat repaired or renewed—12, Dilapidated W.C.'s. abolished—1, Water supply made sufficient—4.

Cesspools :

Cleansed—2, Other repairs—1.

Common Lodging Houses :

Accumulations removed—1.

Amusement Houses and Cinemas, etc.:

Ventilation improved—1, Other repairs—3.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :

No. of houses infested with bed bugs—25, No. of houses disinfested by (a) Occupier—14, and (b) Local Authority—11.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops :

Limewashed dairy—2.

Food Shops, Kitchens, etc. :

Accumulations removed—1, Cleanliness improved—8, Storage arrangement improved—2, Ashbins provided—6, Washup sinks fixed—9, Water supply provided—9, Other repairs—8, Floors and yards repaired—4, Walls repaired—6, Roofs, chutes and downpipes repaired—3, Drains cleansed—1, Washing facilities provided and improved—2, Other sources of contamination removed—1.

Hotels and Public Houses :

Rooms redecorated—8, Ceiling redecorated—8, Doors repaired and redecorated—10, Windows repaired and redecorated—14, Cellar walls rendered—2, Cellar floors renewed or repaired—2, Provision of intervening ventilated space to toilets—1.

Food Vehicles :

Warnings regarding general cleanliness of vehicles, person or coverings—1, Warnings re: name and address—3, New vehicles provided—4.

Fried Fish Shops :

New ranges fitted—1, Water supply provided—1, Washing up sinks provided—2, Lighting and ventilation improved—1, Cleansing carried out—1, Storage accommodation provided or improved—3, Drainage improved—1, Preparation room reconstructed—1.

Factories :

Cleansing carried out—13, Separate W.C. accommodation provided—4, Accumulations removed—3.

Schools :

W.C's cleansed—2, W.C's repaired—1, Urinals cleansed—1, Urinals repaired—1.

Pigstyes :

Piggeries properly drained—11, Cesspools cleansed or repaired—3, Structures repaired or improved—5, Other nuisances abated—3, Lime-washing carried out—2.

Stables, Refuse and Manure :

Accumulations removed—29.

Miscellaneous :

Animal carcasses buried—4, Flooding abated—2, Air raid shelters cleared—1.

Rats and Mice :

Infestations removed—599, Rat and mice proofing carried out—4, Houses baited—522.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS.

An important part of the duties of your Public Health Inspectors is the inspection of meat at the Public Abattoir. Here the Inspector is on duty before slaughtering commences and does not leave the premises until slaughtering has discontinued. The methods and criteria of meat inspection recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are strictly complied with. The quantity of diseased and unsound meat condemned at the Abattoir during the year, was as follows:—

Bulls, Bullocks and Heifers.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Heads and Tongues	24	Suets	3
Lungs	40	Mesenteries	23
Hearts	7	Intestines	23
Livers	8	Stomachs	11
Spleens	2	Omentums	11
Hindquarters	3	Forequarters	2

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

1 Carcase and all offal	—	1 Septicaemia.	
5 Part Forequarters	—	5 Bruising.	
3 Part Forequarters	—	2 Bruising, 1 Muscular Fibrosis.	
1 Hindquarter	—	1 Bone Taint.	
2 Tails	—	1 Fracture, 1 Abscess.	
2 Briskets	—	2 Lipomata.	
24 Heads and Tongues	—	12 Actinomycosis, 11 C. Bovis, 1 Abscess.	
162 Lungs	—	111 Pleurisy, 27 Congested, 16 Hydatid Cysts, 3 Parasitic, 5 Pneumonia.	
248 Livers	—	185 Distomatosis, 13 Cirrhosis, 5 Peritonitis, 26 Abscess, 10 Angiomata, 1 Parasitic, 4 Bacterial Necrosis, 3 Hydatid Cysts.	
246 Part Livers	—	238 Distomatosis, 18 Cirrhosis.	
37 Hearts	—	25 Pericarditis; 12 C. Bovis.	
6 Suets	—	6 Fat Necrosis.	
3 Kidneys	—	3 Nephritis.	
34 Mesenteries and Intestines	—	23 C. Bovis, 11 Peritonitis.	

Cows.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Heads and Tongues	1	Intestines	3
Lungs	2	Omentums	2
Mesenteries	3	Stomachs	2

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

3 Lungs	—	1 Congested; 1 Pleurisy; 1 Pneumonia.	
7 Livers	—	1 Hydatid Cysts; 1 Angiomata; 5 Distomatosis.	
3 Part Livers	—	3 Distomatosis.	
1 Kidneys	—	1 Degenerated.	
3 Mesenteries and Intestines	—	2 Jöhnes Disease; 1 Peritonitis.	

Calves.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Nil.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

7 Carcases and all Offal	—	2 Pneumonia and Emaciation; 3 Immaturity; 1 Moribund; 1 Oedema.
1 Lung	—	1 Congested.
4 Livers	—	3 Millitary Necrosis; 1 Degenerated.
9 Kidneys	—	9 Billiary Nephritis.

Sheep.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

55 Carcases and all Offal	—	24 Emaciation; 20 General Dropsy; 1 Bruising; 1 Uraemia; 3 Septicaemia; 5 Acute Fever; 1 Moribund.
5 Legs	—	2 Abscess; 1 Arthritis; 2 Bruising.
6 Shoulders	—	4 Abscess; 2 Bruising.
1296 Lungs	—	212 Pneumonia; 453 Strongyli; 463 Congested; 18 Pleurisy; 98 Parasitic; 50 Hydatid Cysts; 2 Melanosis.
50 Hearts	—	15 Cystic, 35 Pericarditis.
1623 Livers	—	273 Distomatosis; 7 Peritonitis; 1 Cirrhosis; 1203 Parasitic; 34 Degenerated; 105 Hydatid Cysts.
43 Kidneys	—	23 Nephritis; 10 Oedema.
10 Kidney Capsules	—	10 Fat Necrosis.

Pigs.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Heads and Tongues	35	Lungs	3
Livers	3	Hearts	3
Omentums and Stomachs	21	Mesenteries and Intestines	21

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

1 Carcase and all Offal	—	1 Acute Fever.
661 Lungs	—	362 Congested; 194 Pneumonia; 55 Pleurisy.
221 Livers	—	47 Hydated Cysts; 119 Cirrhosis; 3 Hepatitis; 18 Peritonitis; 23 Necrosis; 8 Parasitic; 3 Degenerated.
51 Hearts	—	51 Pericarditis.
91 Kidneys	—	79 Nephritis; 7 Hydro Nephritis; 5 Oedema.
2 Legs	—	2 Abscess.
7 Spleens	—	6 Peritonitis; 1 Congested.
1 Head	—	1 Bruising.
11 Mesenteries and Intestines	—	11 Peritonitis.
11 Omentums and Stomachs	—	11 Peritonitis.

The percentage figures for the various diseases over a period of years are as follows:—

Tuberculosis.

Year.	Cattle excluding			Sheep and		Pigs.
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.		
1946	9.03	10.2	—	—		1.9
1947	5.39	22.0	.103	—		5.0
1948	4.13	29.2	.066	—		4.8
1949	12.86	29.5	.109	—		6.8
1950	11.2	24.4	.026	—		5.2
1951	8.63	30.6	.036	—		12.8
1952	7.41	20.57	.051	—		13.17
1953	7.98	15.74	.074	—		7.53
1954	4.63	9.14	.08	—		5.26
1955	7.79	8.21	—	—		3.64
1956	7.55	8.93	—	—		3.11
1957	3.53	16.66	.25	—		1.24
1958	6.22	20.0	—	—		2.36

Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Year.	Cattle excluding			Sheep and		Pigs.
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.		
1946	29.3	10.4	.4	30.4		5.0
1947	44.5	35.5	.9	20.9		14.9
1948	39.5	62.8	.84	37.4		24.7
1949	48.0	56.8	1.34	41.36		34.5
1950	57.1	66.1	3.6	45.1		43.4
1951	58.19	62.2	5.5	50.0		53.99
1952	64.71	76.04	7.05	46.8		52.5
1953	53.0	63.3	5.26	43.75		50.3
1954	53.1	68.57	5.66	32.04		53.32
1955	40.2	80.67	6.6	18.24		26.25
1956	54.16	69.64	3.22	18.3		7.7
1957	48.82	84.72	3.51	19.88		27.04
1958	48.22	53.33	1.70	28.11		31.73

Bovine Cysticercosis.

Year	CATTLE OTHER THAN COWS.			Cows.		
	Examined	Affected	Percentage	Examined	Affected	Percentage
1948	282	4	1.4	52	0	—
1949	1591	38	2.7	637	7	1.1
1950	2003	64	3.19	1078	43	3.99
1951	2629	66	2.51	677	8	1.19
1952	2171	75	3.45	409	10	2.24
1953	1991	38	1.91	578	6	1.03
1954	2590	33	1.27	525	4	0.76
1955	2015	20	0.99	207	4	1.93
1956	1549	18	1.17	56	1	1.78
1957	1415	19	1.34	72	—	—
1958	1012	23	2.27	15	—	—

An examination of the above figures reveals an increased percentage of meat affected with Tuberculosis amongst cattle including cows and also amongst pigs. There was also an increased percentage of cattle other than cows affected with *Cysticercus Bovis*.

UN SOUND OR UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED OR SURRENDERED FROM FOOD PREMISES THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR was as follows:—

During the year the total weight of foodstuffs condemned, not including food condemned at the Abattoir, amounted to 1 ton, 13 cwts., 1 qtr., 10 lbs., 6½ ozs.

The number of tins containing condemned food, amounted to 1,677, and they can be classified as follows:—

Tinned Fruit.

7 tins of *Strawberries*—5 lbs. 15 ozs.; 4 tins of *Damsons*—4 lbs. 4 ozs.; 5 tins of *Loganberries*—3 lbs. 14 ozs.; 83 tins of *Apricots*—139 lbs. 10 ozs.; 1 tin of *Raspberries*—1 lb.; 18 tins of *Fruit Salad*—13 lbs. 6 ozs.; 44 tins of *Cherries*—92 lbs. 8 ozs.; 122 tins of *Plums*—151 lbs. 7 ozs.; 137 tins of *Peaches*—188 lbs. 8 ozs.; 69 tins of *Mandarins*—54 lbs. 7 ozs.; 142 tins of *Pineapples*—175 lbs. 8 ozs.; 132 tins of *Pears*—147 lbs. 9 ozs.; 197 tins of *Tomatoes*—187 lbs. 15 ozs.; 38 tins of *Oranges*—27 lbs. 2 ozs.; 10 tins of *Grapefruit*—9 lb. 5 ozs.

Tinned Meats.

92 tins of *Cooked Ham*—1108 lbs.; 1 tin of *Liver*—6 lbs; 80 tins of *Corned Beef*—182 lbs.; 5½ ozs.; 23 tins of *Ox Tongues*—56 lbs. 4 ozs.; 6 tins of *Chicken Fillets*—1 lb. 8 ozs.; 5 tins of *Jellied Veal*—20 lbs.; 95 tins of *Luncheon Meat*—107 lbs.; 51 tins of *Stewed Steak*—55 lbs. 12 ozs.; 3 tins of *Chopped Pork*—2 lbs. 9 ozs.

Tinned Fish.

45 tins of *Fish*—26 lbs. 11 ozs.

Fresh Fish.

Cod—14 lbs.

Vegetables.

40 tins of *Beans*—32 lbs. 15 ozs.; 23 tins of *Carrots*—22 lbs. 12 ozs.; 81 tins of *Peas*—59 lbs.; 8 tins of *Mixed Vegetables*—8 lbs. 5 ozs.

Miscellaneous.

31 tins of *Meat Paste*—93 ozs.; *Roast Pork*—8½ lbs; *Chicken*—6 lbs.; *Beef Sausage*—8 lbs. 4 ozs.; *Pork Sausage*—34 lbs.; *Bacon*—77 lbs.; 3 tins of *Hamburgers*—2 lbs. 9½ ozs.; 56 tins of *Evaporated Milk*—77¾ pts.; 1 tin of *treacle*—1 lb.; 4 tins of *Cream*—1 lb. 12 ozs.; *Belly Pork*—449 lbs.; *Beef*—66 lbs.; *Cheese*—7 ozs.; 1 tin of *Mustard*—28 ozs.; 1 tin of *Nescafe*—8 ozs.; 5 tins of *Rice Pudding*—3 lbs. 6 ozs.; *Rice*—25 lbs.; 3 jars of *Pickled Onions*—2 lbs. 13½ ozs.; 2 tins of *Golden Syrup*—4 lbs.; 1 tin of *Marmalade*—2 lbs.; 12 jars of *Pickled Cabbage*—12 lbs.; *Tea*—9 lbs.; *Flour*—16 lbs.; 3 tins of *Vegetables*—3 lbs; 9 pkts. of *Sponge Mixture*—3 lbs. 10½ ozs.; *Sage*—4 lbs. 3 ozs.; *Creamola*—3 lbs.; *Potatoes*—330 lbs.; 62 tins of *Soup*—88 lbs. 2 ozs.

A considerable consignment of unfit food from a shop in the Cwmavon area was seized during the year. Repeated warnings had been issued, but, it was obvious that the shopkeeper, owing to old age and infirmity, was not properly able to manage his affairs. Endeavours to persuade him to discontinue his business (this being the only solution) were not successful. Our requirements to remedy infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations had not been complied with and there was progressive deterioration in the condition of the premises. It was finally realised that further attempts at persuasion were futile.

A report on the continued contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and also the seizure of a large proportion of the stock was presented to Council. Having regard, however, to the action already taken by Council's officers and to the age and state of health of the shopkeeper, and that he had undertaken to immediately discontinue in business, no further action was taken.

Food Quality, Description and Labelling.

During the year 337 samples of various foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst at the County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Constant sampling over a wide range of foodstuffs is carried out in order to check that a proper level of quality and food value is maintained in accordance with the law and the standard set by reputable manufacturers. Emphasis is on sampling of the commodities varying from time to time with changing trends and practices in food trade.

Your Inspectors are constantly looking out for misleading descriptions and labels on all articles of food which lend themselves to such treatment, e.g., extravagant claims as to beneficial effects of consumption of the particular foods, inferior fruit labelled as being of a more choice variety, or absence of statement as to country of origin, thus implying that the food is English.

During the year, the attention of several green grocers was drawn to their failure to indicate the country of origin on imported fruit—particularly tomatoes.

The number and variety of foods submitted for analysis were as follows:—

Milk—69; Condensed Milk—4; Cream—2; Grated Parmesan Cheese—1; Cheese Spread—2; Cheese Rarebit—1; Butter—8; Margarine—4; Lard—2; Cashew Nuts—1; Rice—3; Custard Powder—2; Doughnuts 1; Smoked Salmon Mayonnaise—1; Golden Raising Flour—1; Baking Powder—1; Piccalilli—1; White Pepper—1; Currie Powder—1; Prepared Mustard—1; Ground Cinnamon—2; Ground Nutmeg—1; Ground Ginger—1; Ground Mixed Spice—1; Dried Mixed Herbs—1; Canned Meat Product—23; Canned Fish—9; Canned Vegetables—15; Canned Tomato Juice—1; Chopped Chicken in Stock—1; Chicklets—1; Minced Pork in Stock—1; Sausages—5; Meat Paste—2; Fish Paste—6; Potted Salmon—1;

Fish Cakes—1; Marmite—1; Sandwich Spread—1; Dried Coffee Extract—1; Coffee—1; Honey—4; Table Jelly—2; Sugar—1; Sugar Confectionary—11; Flavouring—3; Dried Fruit—1; Glace Cherries—1; Apples—14; Lung Tonic—1; Chest and Lung Mixture—1; Sterilised Cream—2; Dripping—1; Infant Cereal—2; Strained Baby Food—1; Pie Filling—1; Trifle Pack—1; Vinegar—2; Chutney—2; Sauce—2; Tomato Ketchup—1; French Mustard—1; Dried Soup—2; Canned Soup—5; Canned Ravioli—1; Canned Lemon Juice—1; Chicken Fillets in Stock—1; Cheese Spread—1; Minced Turkey in Stock—2; Buttered Cheese Spread—1; Soft Drink Powder—3; British Wine Cocktail—1; Rose Hip Syrup—1; Cocoa Beverage—1; Prepared Jelly—1; Olive Oil and Raspberry Vinegar—1; Agarol—1; Cascara Tablets—1; Junior Aspirin—1; Ice-cream—4; Shredded Beef Suet—3; Dessicated Coconut—2; Peanut Butter—1; Puff Pastry Mix—1; Cake Flour—1; Custard Powder—1; Self Raising Flour—1; Baking Powder—1; Sage and Onion Stuffing—1; Sweet Pickle—1; Sauce—2; Dried Soup Powder—1; Canned Broth—1; Canned Fruit—2; Canned Pudding—3; Canned Minced Meat—1; Canned Orange Juice—1; Canned Baby Food—1; Beef Sausage—1; Soft Drink—3; Lemonade Crystals—1; Dried Coffee Extract—1; Jam—1; Dried Mixed Vegetables—1; Chocolate Laxatives—1; Cough Mixture—1; Aspirin Tablets—1; Ground Almonds—1; Marzipan—1; Semolina—1; Arrowroot—1; Dessert Powder—1; Powdered Soup—2; Canned Spaghetti—2; Bottled Mussels—1; Bottled Cockles—1; Cheese Spread with Tomatoes—1; Beer—2; Cherry Brandy—1; Gin—2; Whisky—7; Brandy—1; Rum—1; Coconut Essence—1; Marmalade—1; Mixed Peel—1; Stomach Powder—1; Phospherine Tonic Tablets—1; Liquid Paraffin—1.

Total Number of Samples	337
Genuine	326
Adulterated	11

The comparison with the previous years is as follows :—

Year	No. of Samples taken	Genuine	Not Genuine
1946	162	153	9
1947	196	166	10
1948	200	183	17
1949	249	249	—
1950	242	232	10
1951	229	220	9
1952	259	250	9
1953	274	267	7
1954	240	236	4
1955	300	299	1
1956	312	304	8
1957	323	320	3
1958	337	326	11

It will be observed that the number of samples taken progressively increases each year, and since 1947 have nearly doubled.

Number of samples taken per 1,000 of population—Estimated 1954 46,000	7.3
Percentage of Milks taken not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	4.3
Percentage of Foods other than Milk not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	3.0
Percentage of all Foods not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	3.3

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

There were eleven samples reported upon during the year as being adulterated.

Following a report of the entry through the ports of London and Liverpool of supplies of apples found not to have been properly treated to remove arsenic and lead spraying, the apples having come from the Lebanon, a number of samples were taken from different traders in the Town and they were in six instances reported upon as containing large or excessive amounts of lead and arsenic. The circumstances associated with, and giving rise to, the contamination of apples and the local action taken are referred to elsewhere in this report.

Three samples of alleged pasteurised milk (one informal and two formal) were taken from a milk distributor and the Analyst reported the following adulterations:—

The two formal samples contained 27% fat deficiency and were not pasteurised. The informal sample was 28% deficient in fat and not pasteurised.

Legal proceedings followed in respect of the two formal samples and the retailer was fined a total of £8 10s. 0d. in respect of each, this fine being made up as follows:—

Fat deficiency	£1 0s. 0d.
Sale of milk without use of special designation	£2 10s. 0d.
Sale of milk not of the quality demanded (selling Raw Milk instead of Pasteurised Milk)	£5 0s. 0d.

An informal sample of cake flour showed on analysis that it was infested with Meal Mites, the remaining stocks of the flour were surrendered and the appropriate measures of disinfection applied.

A formal sample of whisky was found to contain 2% added water. Legal Proceedings which followed were heard under the provisions of Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of adulterations, and Section 6 in respect of a false label. The retailer was fined £10 0s. 0d. in respect of the contraventions of Section 2 and £5 0s. 0d. in respect of the contraventions of Section 6.

THE SALE OF MILK REGULATIONS.

The regulations provide that unless milk contains a minimum of 3% fat and 8.5% milk solids other than milk fat, it shall be presumed—until the contrary is proved—that the milk is not genuine. It is claimed that there is a steady decline in the composition of milk in various parts of the country. The average percentage composition of the whole of the milk samples in the Borough of Port Talbot in 1958, was as follows:—

Number of milk samples taken.	Milk fat Percentage.	Non-fatty solids— Percentage.
69	3.66%	8.45%

The figures for the ten previous years were as follows:—

Year	No. of milk samples examined	Milk fat percentage	Non-fatty solids— percentage
1948	123	3.50%	8.45%
1949	98	3.56%	8.67%
1950	118	3.63%	8.68%
1951	126	3.49%	8.65%
1952	133	3.55%	8.65%
1953	128	3.62%	8.66%
1954	104	3.66%	8.63%
1955	84	3.53%	8.66%
1956	72	3.60%	8.75%
1957	65	3.66%	8.45%
1958	69	3.66%	8.45%

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations 1925/1953

All the samples of milk, cream, condensed milk, sterilized cream and ice-cream were free from preservatives.

The following foods were reported upon as being free from sulphites:—Infant cereal; strained baby food; pie filling, triflic pack; rice; custard powder; doughnuts; table jelly; jam; sugar confectionery; sugar; dried mixed vegetables; semolina; arrow-root; dessert powder; sauce powder; powdered soup; cherry brandy; marmalade; mixed peel; minced turkey in stock; *beer; minced chicken in stock; minced pork in stock; meat and fish pastes; potted salmon; fishcakes; dried fruit; glace cherries; chicken fillets in stock; and honey.

*One sample of beer contained 30 p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide (maximum limit 70 p.p.m.)

The analyst further reported that the following foods were free from boric acid:—butter; margarine; minced chicken in stock; chicken fillets in stock; minced pork in stock; minced turkey in stock; fish and meat pastes; potted salmon; fishcakes; buttered cheese spread; grated parmeson cheese; cheese spread with tomato; cheese spread; cheese rarebit; beef sausages and pork sausages.

The following articles of food were free from sulphites, benzoic and salicylic acids:—sauce; sweet pickle; chutney; sauce and tomato ketchup; and soft drinks.

The samples of vinegar were reported as showing not more than traces of arsenic.

The British Wine Cocktail was found to be free from benzoic and salicylic acids.

Various samples of apples contained large and excess amounts of arsenic and lead and the measures adopted in connection with this is referred to elsewhere in this report.

The samples of beer contained not more than traces of lead and copper.

Lead and Arsenic Contamination of Apples.

As a result of press reports that another local authority had received notification from Liverpool of the despatch to its area of apples, contaminated by lead and arsenic, I caused a check to be made of all fruit and grocer shops in the Borough. Several had consignments of contaminated apples from a wholesaler in the other area and also from firms in London. No notification of any description had been received by my Council of the despatch of these apples to Port Talbot. All wholesalers and retailers in the Borough readily agreed to our request to detain stocks, pending the report of the Public Analyst. Several samples were immediately despatched by road to the Public Analyst, who reported that, whilst six of the samples were heavily contaminated, the contamination of others was below permissible limits.

These apples had been imported from the Lebanon and had been obviously contaminated by insecticidal or fungicidal sprays. In some of these eastern countries fruits are regularly sprayed, leaving the rain to wash off the contamination. If, however, there is a dry season, adequate washing does not take place, resulting in patches of contamination being left on the fruit. Washing or removal of the peel would be a safeguard. Such precautions, however, should be taken at all times if people are to protect themselves from the possibility of infection or food poisoning, for apart from chemical contamination the fruit could be

contaminated by bacteria due to dirty handling or handling by an infected person.

There were at this time large quantities of these apples in Port Talbot and in fact throughout the country. Much of these consignments had been released after detention and examination by the London and Liverpool Port Health Authorities. The consignments had been brought over considerable distances, from middle eastern countries, and possibly international, economic and trading considerations were involved.

One could have taken statutory action, but, we realised, of course, that had there been rain, much, if not all, of this contamination would have been washed away. On the other hand there was no attempt to deceive or alter the nature, substance or quality of the article. It was also a valuable food that could be easily salvaged. A letter was, therefore, written to all fruit wholesalers and retailers in the Borough requesting them to wash and wipe thoroughly with a damp cloth all apples before exposure for sale, paying particular attention to where the stem entered the apple and the calyx. It was pointed out to each retailer that should persons expose for sale unwashed apples which produced evidence of the contamination then we would be reluctantly obliged to take proceedings. In this way all interests were protected and the responsibility of exposing for sale apples free from contamination rested with the trade.

A careful check was continued for some time by your Inspectors and we are pleased to report that no contaminated apples were exposed for sale. We did, however, appreciate the complete co-operation we received from the trade at the time.

Industrial Catering.

During the year a complete change of catering methods was established on the premises of the Steel Company of Wales. One may describe it as an automatic catering service through vending machines. It was a somewhat revolutionary move which certainly gave rise to new thinking towards industrial catering.

Originally one canteen was equipped with a complete battery of venders to dispense hot coffee, chocolate and tea, cold milk and other cold drinks:—squash or cola—hot and cold snacks and hot meals. Eventually other canteens were equipped so that there are, at present, about three hundred machines installed. Food items now available from these machines during short break periods include hot pasties and pies, bacon sandwiches, pastries, biscuits and confectionery. Drinks include hot coffee, chocolate and tea, cold milk and squash. In addition hot meals available

at main break periods might consist of roast beef, boiled potatoes and carrots, or steak and kidney pie, sausage, bacon and eggs, fish, chips and peas. Dessert might be apple pie or rice pudding.

The machines are the Wittenborg compartment type with three segmented cells in each compartment.

Much of the food is obtained from the Steel Company's kitchens, and prepared, cooked and packed under hygienic conditions which are, from time to time, checked by your Public Health Inspectors. Much of the wrappings or packing material is cellophane. A cellulose preparation is used for bread and butter sandwiches. Wax cartons—sealed or open tumbler form—are provided for drinks. Hot meals are packed in tin foil containers, shaped to fit the segment shape of the compartment cell of the vending machine. A portion of hot cooked meat is packed into one container and a portion of each of the two vegetables to be served is packed into a second container. These two containers constitute a complete meal. Batches of these packed hot meals are loaded into hot boxes which are taken by van to the various hot meal venders. They are removed from the boxes and loaded into the machines.

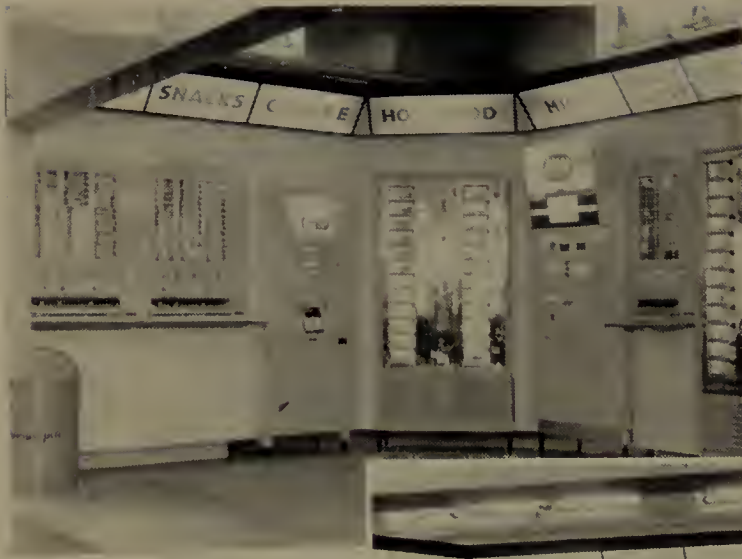
The foods can be seen through the glass panels of the machine. On the insertion of the required coins a glass door of the appropriate panel can be pulled down to expose the food purchased. When the food has been withdrawn and the door revolved into position the next article of food—being on a rotary drum—is revolved into position for the next purchaser. The hot meals are eaten direct from the tin foil containers. The operative uses a knife, fork and spoon which he provides himself.

When the machines were first introduced they were not popular. One could not fail to appreciate a reaction to machines which displaced labour. Nevertheless, our concern was in respect of the quality of food supplied and the conditions and standards adopted to protect food from contamination. As was inevitable in the experimental stages there were shortcomings and failures. Even at that time one could not but have regard to the fact that being dispensed daily through these machines was something in the region of 600 packed cooked meals, 1,000 pastries, 2,500 cakes and 3,000 cartons of milk.

Much of the time of your officers was taken up on investigation, checking and collaborating with the representative of this firm of vending machines in order to arrive at satisfactory conclusions. Many reasons were discovered for the initial shortcomings and these were given immediate attention. The principal trouble, however, was that of temperature control within the machines. The thermometer attached to each machine was not



Much of the food sold through the vending machines is prepared, cooked and packed in the Steel Company's kitchens. These kitchens are from time to time inspected by Public Health Inspectors. This picture shows the food being packed before being supplied to the machines.



On the left is a view of some of the vending machines in operation in one of the mess rooms at the Steel Company of Wales works at Margate. Cold and hot food, beverages, snacks, sandwiches and bread and butter obtainable by merely pressing a button.



A special display case on a stand containing the menu and a specimen hot meal available each day from the hot food machine is placed in a conspicuous part of the vending section in the Steel Company of Wales mess room. The case is seen in the picture on the right with a battery of vending machines in the rear.

visible unless the machine was opened. This did not make for immediate adjustment and control. Improvements were, however, made in temperature control and checking. Alterations were also made in the form of interior cabinet design so as to improve the flow of cold air to all parts of the machine; modifications of the compressor units of the machine were also undertaken, to provide more efficient refrigeration so that machine temperatures could be speedily brought to normal after door opening.

Throughout the experimental period several meetings were held at your Taibach offices between trades union representatives, catering and other representatives of the Steel Company, representatives of the vending machines and your Public Health Inspectors. We were all sincerely concerned with the immediate removal of causes of complaints and the expediting of remedial measures. One has to pay tribute to the concern, sympathetic and realistic approach to the problem by all concerned.

The machines were introduced in January, 1958, and by December of the same year, an average week's operation involved about 120,000 transactions. There are, of course, economic advantages. The serving of food through machines reduces excessive handling and exposure to contamination so in this respect there appears to be hygienic advantages also. It will certainly take some time to accommodate ourselves to this new method of industrial catering. Nevertheless, I have already a profound respect for such a tremendous experiment, and the efforts made to achieve success.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949-54. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-54. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-54.

Designated milks sold in our Borough are Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised milk.

The number of licences granted during 1958 for the sale of designated milks were :—

Pasteurised :—	
(a) Dealer's Licence	27
(b) Supplementary Licence	3
Sterilised :—	
(a) Dealer's Licence	23
(b) Supplementary Licence	3
Tuberculin Tested :—	
(a) Dealer's Licence	25
(b) Supplementary Licence	3

All dairies where milk, or milk utensils were stored, were regularly inspected during the year. Judicious sampling of all milks sold from wholesale and retail establishments, and during delivery in various parts of the Borough, was undertaken during the year. The number of samples procured, the examination undertaken and the result of such examination was as follows:—

Nature of Examination	Number submitted	Number satisfactory	Number not satisfactory
Adulteration	69	66	3
Bacterial Purity	51	51	—

It will be noticed from the above that no samples of milk were taken for examination for tubercle bacilli. Under the provisions of Section 31 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, it has for years been the practice locally to undertake routine biological sampling of milk for this purpose. Having regard to the changed circumstances brought about by the extension of specified areas, the increase in the number of dairy herds attested and the more widespread distribution of pasteurised milk, the necessity for routine biological examination progressively diminishes.

Samples will, however, when the need arises, continue to be submitted for analysis on a selective basis in pursuance of preventative measures against the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Sale of Milk from Machines.

Even the milk industry now avails itself of vending machines for the supply of milk. Already two such machines have been installed in public thoroughfares in the area.

This arrangement for the supply of milk is again an innovation in this Borough.

The proprietor was registered subject to the following conditions:—

- (a) The name and address of milk distributor should be conspicuously displayed on every machine;
- (b) The interior surface of machine should be regularly cleansed;
- (c) All milk cartons to be dated, or coded, so as to be identifiable on the day of sale;
- (d) No milk to be kept for a period in excess of 24 hours in machine;
- (e) A proper container to be fixed near machine for deposit of cartons by people who would drink milk on the spot.

Food Hygiene.

One of the very important functions of the department is the supervision exercised over the preparation, storage and distribution of our various food supplies. The number of food poisoning cases reported locally are exceedingly insignificant having regard to the various conditions under which food is sold and served at the numerous works canteens, cafes and beach stalls and other food premises established within the Borough. This fact is gratifying to a department which devotes so much of its time to the inspection of food and food preparing premises. It also justifies our attitude of publicity and regular visiting in an advisory capacity. Whilst other methods have to be occasionally adopted it is hoped that the need for enforcement will diminish as the opportunity for education increases. We still feel, however, that much support can be given to our clean food campaign by public insistence and demand for a continuing high standard of hygiene.

With the increasing popularity of the Aberavon Beach, attracting as it does thousands of visitors during the summer period, there is a growing need for a modern restaurant in this area. The smaller stalls and kiosks, although having served their purpose well, are still inadequate, and by today are incongruous on so substantial a Promenade. It would be well if Council considered the construction and maintenance of such a restaurant, as this would meet a need and at the same time establish accepted standards of food hygiene.

During the year a re-survey of all food premises was undertaken and our files brought up to-date. It was pleasing to find progressive improvement in general layout of premises and standards of food hygiene. A feature that still manifests itself, however, is the inadequate storage facilities in the smaller food premises, and sometimes even the larger food premises. If proper storage is neglected and if decomposition or contamination is allowed to occur the most careful precautions taken in the preparation and handling of food may be undone. For these reasons one must continue to stress that attention be given to the need of adequate and satisfactory storage conditions.

The construction of a modern "food hall" at Fairway on the Sandfields Estate reflects much credit upon the local co-operative society and is a premises of which the Society can feel justifiably proud. The latest experience of modern methods of food retailing has certainly been introduced into the planning and lay-out of this premises. Considerable attention has also been paid to all matters contributing to the hygienic storage, exposure and handling of food.

The hall comprises a large self-service grocery section, incorporating the sale from refrigerated cabinets of pre-packed bacon, ham and dairy produce, together with adequate self-service

fixturing of the latest design to facilitate the sale of all grocery commodities.

The rest of the food hall consists of a large greengrocery and fruit section, a bread and confectionery section, and a sweets and tobacco kiosk, together with the latest type of self-service fresh meat section. In this latter section the fresh meat is cut, packed and presented to the customer, ready for sale, in refrigerated counters.

First class refrigeration facilities have been included in the building, and adequate space has been reserved for storage, preparation and handling of food. Good conditions in the shape of a staff room and adequate toilet facilities are available for the staff.

It is still pleasing to record that nowhere in the Borough have we open shops selling food. We have no roadside stalls and we have no food of any description exposed for sale on footways or in front of shops.

Sale of Tinned Foods supplied with hot meals.

We were invited by Messrs. Vendepac Ltd., during the year, to collaborate with them in experiments to serve tinned foods through their hot vending machines. Several sample tins were taken at varying temperatures for given periods and submitted to the Public Analyst. Our experiments proved conclusively that the tin content in the various cans rose very appreciably, and in many cases above the permissible limit.

Following the information obtained from these experiments I consulted two large canning firms and also the Fruit and Vegetable Canning and Quick Freezing Research Association. We were satisfied that the heating of canned foods over a period of time might give rise to:—

- (a) Bacterial growth in the cans causing “flat souring” and the acid so formed causing a large increase in the tin content (the foods most affected with the rise in temperature are Chicken Soups and Cream Soups with the exception of Cream of Tomato); and
- (b) Deterioration in flavour of the contents of the can. This may be very noticeable in such foods as Tomato Soup.

We were satisfied, therefore, that it was extremely dangerous to purchase, indiscriminately, canned foods and pass same for consumption through hot vending machines. That all canned food should be purchased through manufacturers who were aware of the methods of heating and sale through vending machines and whose packs could be specially prepared for this purpose. Any time and temperature limits for serving through machines should be indicated by the canners.

FOOD HYGIENE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.

During the first week in September a very successful exhibition was held at the Aberavon Market and its entrance arcade. The exhibition was sponsored by the Ministry of Health and was opened by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. W. Evans-Mort, J.P., supported by Mr. H. E. Leonard, Welsh Board of Health, Ald. G. Griffiths, J.P., Chairman, Markets and Properties Committee and Cllr. Mrs. M. A. Charles, Chairman, Public Health Committee. We were indebted to the Market Inspector for his wholehearted support having regard to the fact that the exhibition was staged in the Market and Entrance Arcade; the Parks' Superintendent for the excellent floral displays provided; the Borough Engineer for the provision of stalls and the Libraries service for providing in each book distributed in the Borough during that week a book marker, giving interesting information, on food hygiene.

Brief particulars of this exhibition are as follows:—

Site:

Aberavon Market and Entrance Arcade.

Stands:

Provided by:

Welsh Board of Health	.....	3
Port Talbot Borough Council	.....	6
Private Firms	.....	5

Photographs:

Supplied by:

Welsh Board of Health; The Steel Company of Wales Ltd.; The Taibach and Port Talbot Co-operative Society Ltd.; The Briton Ferry and Neath Co-operative Society Ltd.; The Co-operative Wholesale Dairies; The Cambrian United Dairies; Messrs. Walls Ice-cream; The Milk Marketing Board; Messrs. Evans-Bevan Ltd., and Messrs. Wm. Hancocks Ltd. (both in respect of washing facilities, etc., in the Hotels and Licensed Premises); Messrs. Thomas and Evans (Soft Drinks Department); Chief Public Health Inspector's Department—Activities in relation to food; and ten private firms.

Publicity:

(i): Posters.

Over five thousand posters, supplied to food shops throughout the Borough, for display, having reference to various food hygiene practises.

(ii): Book-Markers:

Over two thousands book-markers with food hygiene information—one given in every book handed out from the Public Library during the week.

(iii): Cyclo-styled and Printed Circulars on Food Hygiene:

Over six thousand pamphlets and circulars, giving advice and information in relation to food hygiene were taken by the general public from our publicity table situated alongside our photographic stands.

(iv): Public Notice of Exhibition:

One hundred posters, advertising Exhibition. Further two hundred from Messrs. Thomas and Evans Ltd., advertising Exhibition.

Press:

Articles in the Glamorgan Gazette during the preceding week. Photograph and brief report in Western Mail (2/9/58). Half page in South Wales Evening Post—containing message from the Mayor commending the Exhibition and surrounded by advertisements from Food Trade (1/9/58). The Port Talbot Guardian and also the Glamorgan Gazette both having messages from the Mayor of Port Talbot surrounded by advertisements, etc., from the Food Trade (5/9/58).

Radio:

Both I.T.V. and B.B.C. gave publicity.

Films:

Messrs. Lyons Ice-cream arranged for a display twice nightly throughout the week at a local cinema.

Shop Advertisements:

The Taibach and Port Talbot Co-operative Society Ltd., had displays of photographs and publicity material at their Central Stores, and eight branches in various parts of the Borough. Two chemist shops displayed posters and advertised disinfectant, hypochlorides and detergents. Two fish shops and several market stalls were dressed up, and several premises advertised white overalls, head-gear, etc., for use by personnel of food premises. A large percentage of food traders throughout the borough displayed the various Ministry of Health posters.

Inspection of Corporation Houses:

An inspection of Council houses is now undertaken by the Department. Inspection is also made of all Corporation houses

during change or termination of tenancy. Such inspection is concerned with the maintenance of general cleanliness and the detection and eradication of vermin. In this connection 269 inspections were made and 7 cases of unsatisfactory conditions were reported to your Housing Manager. Should unsatisfactory conditions be discovered, the occupier is called upon to take the necessary steps towards an improvement. Every assistance is given by the Department by way of advice, provision of fumigants and in extreme cases disinfestation is undertaken.

Land Charges Act, 1925:

Solicitors acting on behalf of clients purchasing houses enquire by application to the Town Clerk as to the existence of any charges, notices of repair or dilapidations or the proposals of the local authority in respect of such houses. 440 enquiries relating to such properties were received from the Town Clerk's Department and dealt with during the year.

Rent Act, 1957—Rent Restriction Regulations, 1957:

During the year 19 Certificates of Disrepair were issued. Undertakings were received from owners in 9 instances and 5 Certificates of Disrepair were cancelled.

Water Supplies:

Two hundred and eight samples of water were taken by your Public Health Inspectors for bacteriological and chemical examination. Most of these were obtained from various points along the course of your several water supplies so that an adequate check could be maintained on the general purity of our drinking water. Samples were also taken from other water supplies in order to ascertain whether the quality and bacterial condition would justify their use as augmented emergency supplies during periods of drought.

Of the 208 samples taken, 22 failed to reach the bacterial standard required. Several of these were from emergency supplies. Unsatisfactory sampling results from the local authority supply are the subject of immediate investigation. Repeat samples are obtained and any necessary remedial action taken.

Of 23 samples taken of the Cwmbrombil Supply—a private supply of the British Transport Commission—8 were unsatisfactory. These unsatisfactory samples were, however, of the water before chlorination. All samples of the chlorinated water supply proved to be satisfactory.

All the sampling results were examined by your Medical Officer of Health and copies of same forwarded to the Borough Surveyor.

REFUSE NUISANCES.

Having regard to the excellent refuse collection service provided, one continues to be mystified by the illegal deposit of refuse in the back lanes, river banks, and open spaces of our Borough. One can only conclude that the people responsible are careless, indifferent, and cannot bring themselves to conform to the regular practice of placing their refuse containers at required points for collection.

I doubt if it is a matter than can be remedied by education alone, for I am satisfied that the average person is conscious of the illegality of his action when depositing refuse in this manner. The refuse is invariably deposited away from his premises where no suspicion can fall upon himself for such a course of action. The nearer he is to his own door, the less likely is he to deposit the rubbish. Again this disgusting practice is often undertaken during the hours of darkness. Every citizen should realise that, just as a house is no tidier than its occupants, no town is tidier than those who live in it.

Disposal of Refuse:

Our crude attempts to emulate "Bradford methods" of disposal are indeed not satisfactory. Wherever we deposit refuse by tipping, we experience a serious public outcry due to the resulting nuisance. Following these complaints, we feverishly endeavour to cover the surface of the tip, although falling short in frequency and in the amount of coverage that would approach "Bradford methods" of disposal. Although we do not control this service, the Public Health Inspectors appear to be the "butt" of public criticism for allowing such a nuisance to be permitted when we are recognised as the officers of a local authority responsible for the suppression of all forms of nuisances injurious to health. Council are alive to this problem for a Committee has been formed to examine our refuse disposal tips.

Refuse Containers:

Some years ago, Council decided to give six months notice, that it would require all citizens of this Borough to provide proper covered refuse containers of approved material. The assorted array of refuse containers still on view during collection days gives the whole area an untidy appearance and is certainly a reproach to public health standards in a progressive Borough such as ours. Public cleansing is first priority in a civilised community, and in this respect the men in this service are doing a good job of work, often under difficult and unpleasant conditions. To present these men with offensive waste material other than in covered bins, makes an unpleasant task more unpleasant still. This failure to

provide proper refuse containers does not appear to be restricted to any particular social class and is indeed very pronounced in what may be considered the best residential parts of the Borough.

Public Abattoir.

The general conditions at the Public Abattoir have been fully reported upon in previous annual reports. These premises meet our needs until a modern abattoir can be provided. This is an urgent necessity. Throughout the years, Council has been aware of the shortcomings associated with our abattoir and the need for a modern premises.

As in past years our Inspectors are on duty at the abattoir throughout the whole process of slaughtering. A hundred per cent meat inspection is, therefore, assured. Meat inspected is marked with the approved official stamp.

Particulars of diseased and unsound meat condemned at our abattoir are found under the heading of "Meat and Food Inspection."

A total of 12,590 animals were killed and examined during the year, the figures for the previous ten years being as follows:—

1948	—	14,519	1953	—	27,383
1949	—	19,519	1954	—	44,497
1950	—	21,132	1955	—	30,693
1951	—	23,924	1956	—	18,721
1952	—	26,058	1957	—	11,047

It will be seen that there was an increased number of animals slaughtered during the year at the abattoir.

Detailed weekly figures for the year are shown on the following pages.

Handling and Transport of Meat:

The general conditions in connection with the handling and transport of meat within the borough are reasonably good. It was, however, noted that occasionally meat transport methods were used which could lead to action being taken for contravention of the Regulations and warnings were given in a few cases.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933—1954:

Arrangements between the slaughterhouse Manager and your Inspectors worked very harmoniously during the year. The times of slaughtering varied considerably. In spite of the fact that the number of animals slaughtered during the year were still less than that over previous years, the Inspectors had to be present at the abattoir throughout the whole period of slaughtering, and were still obliged to work late into the evenings and occasionally at weekends. In no single instance was it necessary to issue a warning or corrective during the year for the provision of the Regulations and Slaughter of Animals Acts were complied with in every respect.

ANNUAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE RETURNS.

The weekly slaughtering returns for 1958 were as follows :—

1958 Week Ending	BULLS, BULLOCKS AND HEIFERS				COWS			CALVES			SHEEP			PIGS		
	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total
Jan. 5	138	138	12	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	98	98	28	28	28	28
12	243	381	37	49	—	—	19	19	19	19	118	216	69	97	69	97
19	242	623	26	75	—	—	10	29	29	29	135	351	71	168	71	168
26	257	880	37	112	—	—	—	—	—	—	133	484	87	255	87	255
Feb. 2	254	1134	23	135	—	—	17	46	46	46	103	587	111	366	111	366
9	191	1325	24	159	—	—	25	71	71	71	55	642	87	453	87	453
16	239	1564	28	187	—	—	11	82	82	82	97	739	103	556	103	556
23	202	1766	26	213	—	—	15	97	97	97	61	800	100	656	100	656
March 2	179	1945	22	235	1	1	5	102	102	102	61	861	90	746	90	746
9	205	2150	27	262	1	2	24	126	126	126	82	943	71	817	71	817
16	196	2346	27	289	—	2	1	127	127	127	66	1009	102	919	102	919
23	164	2510	22	311	1	3	14	141	141	141	34	1043	93	1012	93	1012
30	174	2684	20	331	1	4	13	154	154	154	72	1115	68	1080	68	1080
April 6	178	2862	14	345	—	4	12	166	166	166	92	1207	60	1140	60	1140
13	211	3073	23	368	—	4	22	188	188	188	100	1307	66	1206	66	1206
20	191	3264	19	387	—	4	16	204	204	204	58	1365	98	1304	98	1304
27	207	3471	18	405	1	5	18	222	222	222	86	1451	84	1388	84	1388
May 4	204	3675	17	422	—	5	15	237	237	237	117	1568	55	1443	55	1443
11	186	3861	20	442	—	5	13	250	250	250	105	1673	48	1491	48	1491
18	424	4285	25	467	—	5	13	263	263	263	347	2020	39	1530	39	1530
25	241	4526	19	486	1	6	14	277	277	277	163	2183	44	1574	44	1574
June 1	258	4784	19	505	—	6	—	—	—	—	191	2374	48	1622	48	1622
8	243	5027	29	534	2	8	4	281	281	281	158	2532	50	1672	50	1672
15	261	5288	20	554	1	9	—	—	—	—	195	2727	45	1717	45	1717
22	288	5576	19	573	2	11	9	290	290	290	209	2936	49	1766	49	1766
29	279	5855	17	590	—	11	10	300	300	300	235	3171	17	1783	17	1783
July 6	237	6092	15	605	—	11	8	308	308	308	189	3360	25	1808	25	1808
13	255	6347	13	618	1	12	—	—	—	—	198	3558	43	1851	43	1851
20	229	6576	14	632	—	12	7	315	315	315	182	3740	26	1877	26	1877
27	284	6860	12	644	—	12	7	322	322	322	228	3968	37	1914	37	1914
Aug. 3	283	7143	14	658	—	12	11	333	333	333	206	4174	52	1966	52	1966
10	307	7450	24	682	—	12	10	343	343	343	271	4445	—	1968	—	1968
17	237	7687	15	697	—	12	13	356	356	356	209	4654	—	1968	—	1968
24	236	7923	19	716	—	12	1	357	357	357	216	4870	—	1968	—	1968
31	275	8198	18	734	—	12	6	363	363	363	251	5121	—	1968	—	1968

Annual Slaughterhouse Returns—Continued.

1958 Week Ending	BULLS, BULLOCKS AND HEIFERS					COWS			CALVES			SHEEP			Pigs		
	Sept.	7	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total
Sept.	14	18	289	8487	18	752	1	13	5	368	265	5386	—	1968	—	1968	—
	21	19	218	8705	19	771	—	13	14	382	185	5571	—	1968	—	1968	—
	28	14	190	8895	14	785	1	14	12	394	141	5712	22	1990	22	1990	22
	5	13	281	9176	13	798	—	14	13	407	237	5949	18	2008	18	2008	18
Oct.	12	15	282	9458	15	813	—	14	12	419	213	6162	42	2050	42	2050	42
	19	20	279	9737	20	833	—	14	19	438	203	6365	37	2087	37	2087	37
	26	22	293	10030	22	855	—	14	7	445	242	6607	22	2109	22	2109	22
	2	19	374	10404	19	874	1	15	10	455	304	6911	40	2149	40	2149	40
Nov.	9	20	270	10674	20	894	—	15	12	467	238	7149	—	2149	—	2149	—
	16	17	300	10974	17	911	—	15	11	478	271	7420	1	2150	1	2150	1
	23	15	220	11194	15	926	—	15	13	491	192	7612	—	2150	—	2150	—
	30	15	274	11468	15	941	—	15	8	499	251	7863	—	2150	—	2150	—
Dec.	7	21	255	11723	21	962	—	15	4	503	230	8093	—	2150	—	2150	—
	14	7	191	11914	7	969	—	15	8	511	175	8268	1	2151	1	2151	1
	21	14	115	12029	14	983	—	15	—	511	83	8351	18	2169	18	2169	18
	31	15	224	12253	15	997	—	15	6	517	162	8513	42	2211	42	2211	42
			337	12590	15	1012	—	15	7	524	235	8748	80	2291	80	2291	80

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part during 1958.

During 1936.													
Number Killed Number Inspected	Cattle, excluding Cows			Cows			Calves			Sheep & Lambs			Pigs
	
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERC.													
Whole carcasses condemned													
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned													
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis													
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.													
Whole carcasses condemned													
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned													
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis													
CYSTICERCOSIS.													
Generalised and totally condemned													
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned													
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration													
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis													
										</			

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Much of our time and attention during the year was devoted to atmospheric pollution. Although there appears to be much more coloured fume emitted from the open hearth stacks due to the progressively increasing process of oxygen infusion, our recorded graphs tend to show a downward trend of pollution. Interesting information may now be obtained from our smoothly recordings of atmospheric pollution taken over the last six years. The average monthly deposits of total solids during these years are as follows:—

Years:	Taibach:	STATIONS:	
		Port Talbot	Aberavon:
1953	58.18	21.87	—
1954	72.48	24.00	—
1955	98.85	24.76	26.20
1956	73.80	20.61	20.51
1957	59.80	23.64	24.02
1958	49.27	19.14	22.32

A study of the above will show that not until 1958 did our average monthly figures fall below those of 1953; that the pollution in the Taibach area is more than double that of both the Town and Aberavon areas. I still consider the average monthly figure throughout the year of 49.27 as shown in the Taibach area, to be still too high.

Having regard to the substantial additional development (two new blast furnaces, sintering plant, additional coke ovens and bessemer convertors, etc.) during the last six years, the reduction in our pollution figures is appreciated. Nevertheless, when we compare the figures for 1958 with those of earlier years we must appreciate that the high average figures produced through these earlier years were due to major breakdowns and difficulties during the running-in periods of some of the works' installations. We have now reached a stage when we can reasonably expect this vast industry to be relatively free from its running-in difficulties and accordingly show a substantial reduction in pollution figures.

Some abnormal figures which go to make the average figures of earlier years and which arose from major breakdowns were as follows:—

	tons per sq. mile.
August, 1952	459.80
September, 1952	106.62
August, 1954	110.25
September, 1954	137.23
October, 1954	108.51
June, 1955	128.39
December, 1955	345.40
January, 1956	283.90

Although such abnormal atmospheric pollution caused acute discomfort at the time the circumstances were appreciated by Council whose reaction was both practicable and reasonable. During the year the Steel Company presented Council with a graph showing atmospheric pollution being consistently and progressively reduced over the years. Unfortunately such pollution figures were related to the steel production figures which progressively increased over these years. Delighted as we are with the increasing prosperity and production of this industry we are, nevertheless, concerned with the continued atmospheric pollution. In our endeavours to ensure a cleaner atmosphere we cannot relate pollution to production.

RECORDS OF DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST, SOOT, Etc.

(In tons per square mile).

TOWN CENTRE.							
Month.	1952	1953.	1954	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January		17.76	22.48	17.84	27.76	35.60	24.23
February		20.68	19.56	13.43	12.28	26.14	27.37
March		18.54	19.56	30.72	12.74	30.36	3.99
April		16.60	10.50	22.36	19.93	9.95	10.93
May		15.41	19.27	28.69	15.81	18.86	24.60
June		19.00	24.10	28.75	19.29	14.06	15.94
July		33.06	26.05	20.80	21.77	21.25	21.38
August	38.69	25.63	20.35	12.88	30.49	23.18	15.41
September	14.07	36.12	35.56	23.12	19.66	25.13	28.26
October	24.72	23.61	29.89	24.33	19.33	28.32	21.17
November	13.07	24.10	36.75	30.59	14.42	14.39	9.81
December	22.17	11.92	23.86	43.63	33.79	36.39	26.54
TOTAL	112.72	262.42	287.94	297.14	247.30	283.63	229.63

TAIBACH							
Month.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January		43.70	38.05	45.48	283.90	86.95	55.71
February		94.28	45.89	33.74	67.66	63.79	68.89
March		54.20	53.66	51.12	38.12	86.20	15.88
April		45.35	38.22	69.39	54.14	26.52	32.79
May		17.32	47.26	99.06	51.26	88.03	82.37
June		54.20	62.25	128.39	49.63	32.54	41.86
July		91.60	82.60	64.34	41.65	57.19	72.13
August	459.80	64.09	110.25	76.39	72.78	41.81	53.83
September	106.62	69.63	137.25	82.34	66.56	56.74	58.86
October	81.03	47.36	108.51	98.06	42.12	90.41	37.95
November	35.18	61.28	97.99	82.88	32.20	23.69	24.03
December	45.07	25.40	47.90	345.40	85.58	63.75	46.91
TOTAL	727.70	698.14	869.81	1186.23	885.60	717.62	591.21

ABERAVON.				
Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January		°	33.20	33.40
February		14.68	29.72	38.93
March		26.04	30.39	12.23
April	18.95	14.44	9.08	10.60
May	36.71	11.96	17.20	27.13
June	24.35	17.16	14.09	18.13
July	15.80	22.27	22.63	24.99
August	16.92	20.81	31.19	18.12
September	23.66	25.62	25.32	22.60
October	27.54	24.95	32.48	20.84
November	32.70	19.05	17.16	10.10
December	39.18	49.11	25.81	30.72
TOTAL	235.84	246.09	288.27	267.79

° No result—broken bottle.

DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST, SOOT, Etc.

(In tons per square mile).

Records supplied by the Steel Company of Wales.

MONTH	PARK, PORT TALBOT			EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE			GENERAL OFFICES, BLOCK C. ABBEY WORKS.		
	1956.	1957.	1958.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January	54.78	61.05	41.39	56.95	57.85	32.36	55.75	98.26	48.65
February	17.87	30.85	110.71	23.90	37.83	70.47	17.41	63.02	116.00
March	15.30	24.09	5.38	19.91	31.39	7.57	30.50	17.97	8.15
April	36.43	11.28	30.42	29.18	47.03	34.51	27.26	11.70	28.97
May	26.88	25.04	45.09	24.00	27.22	43.26	30.28	27.20	37.67
June	32.29	15.53	35.95	37.11	22.52	34.23	31.29	18.73	29.85
July	27.54	42.10	32.89	24.68	39.44	42.12	57.21	60.61	56.88
August	55.97	26.72	26.63	56.93	53.08	22.09	39.14	87.94	50.12
September	64.63	27.50	28.11	42.32	39.95	40.93	47.97	51.68	47.80
October	25.13	45.97	26.02	30.29	22.99	34.33	34.34	62.02	38.94
November	20.86	18.65	18.63	29.89	24.31	19.89	46.38	22.91	25.30
December	58.48	41.27	29.58	54.60	39.91	44.76	59.50	52.73	48.30
Total :	435.16	370.06	430.80	429.76	445.52	426.52	517.03	574.77	536.63

SULPHUR POLLUTION RECORDS

(Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method).

Month	1952			1953			1954			1955			1956			1957			1958		
	Town Centre	Gros	Taibach	Town Centre	Taibach	Town Centre	Taibach	Town Centre	Taibach	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon
January	1.31	0.67		1.42	1.32	1.42	1.21	1.80	1.51	—	1.44	1.42	1.15	1.57	3.58	0.92	1.32	2.01	1.32	2.01	1.57
February	1.43	0.65		1.86	1.13	1.47	1.23	1.10	1.03	—	1.22	1.08	1.28	1.51	1.76	1.49	1.47	2.22	1.47	2.22	1.13
March	0.92	0.41		1.79	2.04	1.26	1.10	0.92	1.12	—	1.22	1.12	2.09	1.31	1.33	1.55	1.25	1.87	1.25	1.87	1.09
April	1.08	0.34		1.02	0.92	0.99	0.98	0.89	1.06	0.68	1.03	0.90	0.75	0.76	0.83	0.62	1.17	†	1.17	†	0.78
May	0.75	0.25	This Station came into being on the 1/8/52	1.00	0.94	1.03	0.79	1.28	1.86	0.76	0.86	0.90	0.52	0.94	0.90	0.60	1.39	2.43	0.87	2.43	0.63
June	1.08	0.36		1.23	0.74	1.16	0.82	0.98	1.01	0.69	1.09	1.54	0.50	0.84	0.68	0.39	0.87	1.47	0.87	1.47	0.74
July	0.66	0.45		1.36	1.78	1.14	0.82	0.60	0.66	0.30	1.02	1.58	0.59	0.89	1.62	0.45	1.52	0.98	1.52	0.98	0.60
August	0.77			0.82	0.69	0.90	0.69	0.64	0.72	0.57	0.95	1.31	0.44	0.91	1.04	0.68	1.01	1.12	1.01	1.12	0.68
September	0.88		Station dis-continued & transferred to Taibach—31/7/52	1.33	1.15	1.22	1.31	1.12	0.87	0.65	0.94	1.25	0.94	1.07	0.99	0.68	0.99	1.52	0.99	1.52	0.89
October	1.43			0.94	0.94	1.76	3.29	1.34	0.85	0.86	1.05	1.27	0.75	1.30	1.91	0.89	1.31	1.05	1.31	1.05	1.23
November	1.23			1.42	1.64	1.45	2.05	1.31	1.13	0.89	1.12	1.07	1.19	1.83	1.14	1.31	1.22	1.45	1.22	1.45	1.47
December	1.40			1.39	1.41	1.59	1.40	1.81	1.81	1.18	1.20	1.59	1.22	1.22	1.75	1.31	1.22	1.45	1.22	1.45	1.47

° Lead peroxide candle stolen.

† Lead peroxide candle blown over by high winds.

† Lead peroxide candle blown over by wind.																			
	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer		
	1952	1952/53	1953	1953/54	1954	1954/55	1955	1955/56	1956	1956/57	1957	1957/58	1958						
Town Centre	0.83	1.54	1.15	1.39	1.09	1.37	0.924	1.282	0.972	1.29	0.90	1.26	1.16						
Taibach	—	1.47	1.06	1.32	0.89	1.42	1.024	1.312	1.316	1.77	1.01	1.77	1.50						
Aberavon						0.76	0.594	1.318	0.598	1.19	0.57	1.30	0.71						
					This station came into being on 1st April, 1955.														

PORT TALBOT RAINFALL.

(Rainfall in inches).

Town Centre.

Month.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January	3.48	2.47	5.32	3.52	3.76
February	4.39	2.40	0.32	4.71	4.57
March	2.96	2.27	1.45	5.06	0.26
April	1.08	3.01	1.75	0.36	0.65
May	2.00	4.67	1.17	1.92	3.39
June	4.56	5.46	2.12	0.64	3.58
July	5.91	0.51	4.33	3.69	3.94
August	5.15	0.78	5.83	4.31	2.98
September	5.84	2.63	4.93	6.05	6.70
October	5.86	2.23	1.07	4.50	5.18
November	5.99	3.54	1.22	2.10	3.31
December	4.21	6.03	4.28	2.57	4.94
Totals	51.4	36.00	33.88	39.42	43.26

Groes.

Month.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January	4.18	3.36	5.52	3.67	3.71
February	5.16	2.87	0.34	4.72	4.94
March	3.92	2.40	1.84	5.26	0.91
April	1.11	3.33	1.75	0.43	0.76
May	2.36	4.13	1.41	2.24	4.94
June	5.31	5.13	2.75	1.03	4.51
July	5.73	0.84	4.13	3.97	4.80
August	4.73	0.81	5.33	4.37	5.48
September	7.02	2.03	5.39	6.94	8.62
October	7.89	2.30	1.28	4.44	4.54
November	9.73	4.16	1.34	2.06	3.41
December	4.34	7.37	5.59	2.65	5.25
Totals	61.57	38.37	36.67	41.78	51.87

Taibach.

Month.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January	3.15	2.77	5.00	3.03	3.38
February	4.67	2.27	0.24	4.47	4.92
March	3.31	2.33	1.45	4.40	0.73
April	1.06	2.71	1.50	0.24	0.58
May	2.08	4.27	0.99	1.85	3.91
June	4.74	5.23	1.92	0.73	4.10
July	5.06	0.59	4.55	3.37	5.18
August	4.69	0.69	5.15	4.38	5.05
September	5.41	0.94	4.84	6.28	7.43
October	6.19	2.15	0.77	3.99	5.55
November	6.21	3.92	1.00	1.89	3.20
December	3.95	6.24	5.41	2.30	2.30
Totals	50.52	35.11	32.82	37.03	46.33

General Hospital.

Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January	—	°	3.76	3.92
February	—	0.35	4.93	5.55
March	—	1.45	5.36	0.97
April	2.96	1.52	0.34	0.83
May	4.76	1.28	1.91	5.09
June	5.84	2.58	0.94	4.77
July	0.78	4.17	3.89	5.46
August	0.94	5.27	4.46	4.81
September	2.64	5.03	5.82	7.08
October	2.27	1.20	4.77	4.93
November	4.36	1.07	2.04	3.34
December	5.82	5.77	2.66	4.93
Totals	30.37	29.69	40.88	51.78

° No result—Broken Bottle.

PORT TALBOT SUNSHINE.

(Sunshine in hours).

Groes.					
Month.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
January	67.0	37.5	50.2	49.6	51.1
February	79.3	86.1	97.8	91.4	45.1
March	108.3	173.7	163.0	84.3	107.2
April	214.0	158.4	176.4	172.2	108.1
May	163.0	202.7	228.1	205.2	166.0
June	132.3	81.6	153.6	288.3	166.0
July	85.9	252.6	146.7	147.4	107.8
August	128.2	212.5	177.4	147.4	88.0
September	53.8	162.3	74.3	90.0	106.2
October	53.5	119.9	95.0	82.4	85.8
November	36.8	82.6	60.1	62.3	40.0
December	37.4	21.9	22.5	56.2	23.4
Totals	1259.5	1591.8	1445.1	1476.7	1094.7

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 (Alkali, etc., Works Order, 1958) :

This Order came into operation on the 1st June, 1958. By virtue of Section 17 of the Clean Air Act, the Order transferred certain functions hitherto administered by local authorities in respect of emission of smoke, grit and dust from certain types of works to that of the Alkali Inspectorate.

The works transferred locally were:—

NAME OF FIRM.
Steel Company of Wales Ltd.

WORK OR PROCESSES REGISTERED.
Sulphate of Ammonia, Benzene, Gas and coke, Iron and Steel (Blast Furnaces), Sinter Plant, Open Hearth Furnaces, Bessemer Furnaces, oxygen.

Wales Gas Board.

Gas and Coke.

The Distillers Co. Ltd.

Lime.

Metallurgical Chemists Ltd.

Nitric Acid, Arsenic.

It will be observed that much of the Steel Company of Wales' installations were transferred from the supervision of your Public Health Inspectors to that of the Alkali Inspectorate.

I had a feeling earlier that supervision by the Alkali Inspectorate would be somewhat remote, for the South Wales and West of England Headquarters were at Bristol. Meanwhile, an office has been established at Cardiff and ready contact can be, therefore, provided.

I have on two occasions met both the Chief and Deputy Chief Alkali Inspectors, and also Mr. Peabody, the Area Inspector, and discussed with them arrangements for collaboration and co-operation on all matters of mutual interest. I have, also, in company with the Chief Fuel Technologist of the Steel Company of Wales, checked on the whole of the chimney stacks which will still be under the supervision of the local authority. I am pleased to say that density meters which will indicate the emission of dark smoke, are being fitted into each chimney stack, with proper recordings and green and red lights on the various panels associated with the numerous chimney stacks. This should provide for a proper recorded check on the excessive smoke in accordance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956. The chimney stacks, mutually agreed between the Chief Fuel Technologist and myself as coming under the supervision of my Council, and those coming under the supervision of the Alkali Inspectorate, are as follows:—

Under Supervision of Port Talbot Council:

NUMBER.	DESCRIPTION.	
1	Margam "A" Power House	5 chimneys.
2	Margam "B" Power House	2 chimneys.
3	Abbey Soaking Pits	12 chimneys.
	Abbey Soaking Pits	5 chimneys.
4	Abbey Slab Reheating Furnaces	3 chimneys.
5	Abbey Annealing Furnaces	7 chimneys
		(ducts).
6	Abbey Services Boiler House	1 chimney.

Under Supervision of Alkali Inspectorate:

Port Talbot:

Melting Shop	6 chimneys.
Gasholder Bleeder Stack	1 chimney.

Margam:

No. 1 Blast Furnace Bleeders	3 Uptakes.
No. 2 Blast Furnace Bleeders	3 Uptakes.
No. 3 Blast Furnace Bleeders	3 Uptakes.
No. 4 Blast Furnace Bleeders	3 Uptakes.
No. 5 Blast Furnace Bleeders	3 Uptakes.
No. 1 Blast Furnace	1 chimney.
No. 2 Blast Furnace	1 chimney.

No. 3 Blast Furnace	1 chimney.
No. 4 Blast Furnace	1 chimney.
No. 5 Blast Furnace	1 chimney.
Melting Shops	6 chimneys.
Coke Ovens—No. 1 Battery	1 chimney.
Coke Ovens—No. 2 Battery	1 chimney.
Coke Ovens—No. 3 Battery	1 chimney.
Coke Ovens—No. 4 Battery	1 chimney.
Coke Ovens—No. 5 Battery	1 chimney.
SINTER PLANT	1 chimney.
Sinter Strand	3 chimneys.
Sinter Strand	3 chimneys.
Sinter Strand	3 chimneys.
Coke Oven Gas Bleeder (Old)	1 chimney.
Coke Oven Gas Bleeder (New)	3 chimneys.
No. 4 Gas Bleeder	3 chimneys.
No. 5 Gas Bleeder	3 chimneys.
Blast Furnace Clean Gas Bleeder	1 chimney.

Abbey:

Melting Shop	12 chimneys.
No. 6 Coke Oven Battery	1 chimney.
Coke Oven Gas Bleeder	3 chimneys.

Solution of Dust Pollution arising from wet quenching of Coke:

During the year experiments undertaken over a period of time were concluded with at least 75% success towards a reduction of grit and ash carried into the Taibach Area by large clouds of steam arising out of the process of the wet quenching of coke. A considerable financial outlay as well as much thought and energy were expended securing these results. The experiments took place over a number of years and many failures were experienced before ultimate success was achieved. It was also the first substantial attempt throughout the industry to reduce atmospheric pollution, which has for years been an accepted evil from this industrial process.

Having regard for public welfare one had over the years emphasised the need for a reduction in such pollution, being convinced that much of this could be eliminated. One feels by today that this attitude has been more than vindicated.

It was a nice gesture on the part of Council to express to the Steel Company of Wales and all those engaged in this experiment our congratulations and appreciation for all that had been achieved.

The Clean Air Act, 1956 (Appointed Day) Order, 1958:

This order brought into operation from the 1st June, 1958, the remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, including provisions relating to prohibition of dark smoke from chimneys.

measures for dealing with grit and dust from furnaces, abatement of smoke nuisances and the application of the Act to railway engines, vessels and Crown premises.

New Building Bye-law—Smoke Prevention.

A new requirement has been added to our Building Bye-laws and is now operative within the Borough. Its purpose is to facilitate smoke abatement in future by securing that domestic appliances in buildings erected from now on are of types which can operate without smoke.

This bye-law reads as follows:—

Smoke Prevention:

“There shall be provided in a new building (except in so far as heating is provided by furnaces to which section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 applies) only such appliances for heating or cooking as are suitably designed for burning any of the following fuels, namely :—

(a): Gas. (b): Electricity. (c): Coke or Anthracite.
or are appliances of a description exempted conditionally or unconditionally from the provisions of Section II of the Clean Air Act, 1956 (which relates to smoke control areas) by any order for the time being in force under sub-section (4) of that section.”

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The following is a report of the work carried out during the year.

Our sewers, refuse dumps and numerous dwelling houses and business premises were treated for rat infestation during the year.

The 50% grant of our total irrecoverable expenditure from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is no longer paid to local authorities.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1958.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL		All Other (inc. Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3 (4)	Agricul- tural (5)
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling- houses (inc. Council houses) (2)			
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	25	14152	2045	16222	61
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	11	274	26	311	3
(b) Survey under the Act	—	106	16	122	20
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	6	317	13	396	17
III. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections (to be completed only if figures are readily avail- able)	208	5015	130	5653	132
IV. No. of properties inspected (in Sec. 11) which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats: Major	16	16	14	18	10
Minor	2	501	17	20	18
(b) Mice: Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	3	—	5	—
V. No. of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should not exceed those given in Sec. IV)	18	522	34	571	28
VI. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	18	670	42	730	40
VII. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act—					
(a) Treatment	—	1	1	5	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	1	1	5	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

Nature and Number of Baits Laid.

Pre-poisoning baits	19,243
Poison Baits:—Zinc Phosphide	543
Tomarin	3,866
Warfarin	322
Red Squill	53
Arsenious Oxide	299

Maintenance Treatment of Rats in Sewers.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food a percentage of our sewer manholes are treated twice annually. Brief particulars of both treatments during 1958 are as follows:—

TEST BAITING.	June, 1958.	Nov./Dec. 1958.
No of manholes tested	215	224
No. showing bait taken	125	138

TREATMENT.		
No. of manholes baited	328	299
No. of manholes showing bait taken	323	287

BAIT USED.	Sausage Rusk & Zinc Phospide.	Bread Mash & Arsenious Oxide.
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FACTORIES.

The activities of your Sanitary Department in relation to those duties imposed upon this Council by the Factory Acts of 1937 and 1948 were as follows:—

1.—Inspection of Factories.

Premises on Register (1)	Inspection (2)	Number of written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
265	1052		

2.—Particulars Found in Factories.

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND					Referred		Cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector			
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	16	18	—	3	—		
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—							
(a) Insufficient	—	2	—	2	—		
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	5	6	—	3	—		
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—		
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	4	4	—	—	—		
TOTALS	25	30	—	8	—		

Work carried out during the year was :—

Cleansing carried out	9
Separate W.C. accommodation	4
Accumulations removed	3

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

We have two Common Lodging Houses which provide ample accommodation. During our visits of inspection a check is invariably made of the number of lodgers from which we rarely find that 50% of the accommodation is taken up. One of these lodging houses—57 Green Park Street— was included in our Second Year Slum Clearance Programme and will eventually be closed and demolished. Ample accommodation will still exist at the lodging house in Cwmavon Road.

These lodging houses require constant supervision to ensure that a reasonable standard of cleanliness and sanitation is maintained.

63 visits of inspection were made during the year; some of these visits being made late at night.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only offensive trades within the Borough are those of fat melting and extracting, and rag and bone collection.

39 visits of inspection were made during the year.

CINEMAS.

A total of 51 visits of inspection were made to the five cinemas in the Borough; some of these visits being made in company with the fire services officer during evening performances. These cinemas are licensed annually after the Cinema Licensing Committee has considered the reports of its officers and that of the Fire Services Officer of the Glamorgan County Council.

One is very pleased to report a continued maintenance of a good standard of comfort, cleanliness and hygienic conditions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The investigation of the general conditions associated with cases of infectious disease notified is undertaken by your Public Health Inspectors. The isolation of patients, contacts and possible source of infection is checked. Cases are sometimes reported which afterwards prove to be negative. All reported cases are, therefore, investigated and disinfection and other precautions carried out, regardless of whether they are afterwards proved to be negative.

Disinfection is also undertaken in cases of tuberculosis and cancer and in respect of other illnesses and diseases, on request. Much bedding and clothing is disinfected by steam at the Groeswen Hospital, by permission of the Mid. Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee.

The number of inspections made during the year under the heading was 181 and a total of 198 houses and 211 lots of bedding, clothing, etc., was disinfected.

The cases dealt with during 1958 were as follows:—

Diphtheria	—
Scarlet Fever	140
Poliomyelitis	1
Meningitis	3
Dysentery	—
Paratyphoid	—
Erysipelas	3
Food Poisoning	2

Slum Clearance Activities:

In the approved Five Year Slum Clearance Programme 43 single or individual houses were scheduled for demolition by the Demolition Order procedure and 515 houses for demolition by the Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Order procedure.

Progress Report:

The progress already made with our five year programme is as follows:—

First Year Programme:

43 Demolition or Closing Orders were made in respect of individual unfit houses, and following a Public Inquiry the Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of 128 houses in Clearance areas were confirmed. These clearance areas were:

Richard Street. Picton Street. Charles Street. Craddock Street.
Mountain Row. Wern Place. Wern Square.

A large number of families from these houses have already been rehoused.

Second Year Programme:

One Demolition Order and seven Closing Orders in respect of single or individual unfit houses were made. Four separate Public Inquiries were held in respect of 105 houses situated at:

Pantdu. Cwmavon Road. Green Park Street.
Talbot Street.

We are awaiting the Minister's decision in respect of these 105 houses.

Third Year Programme:

Administrative steps will be taken early in 1960 to schedule and make the necessary Orders in respect of dwellings in the following areas:—

Area:	No. of houses:
Tyr Arthur Row, Cwmavon	24
Tewgoed Row, Cwmavon	18
Engine Row, Cwmavon	14
Copper Row, Cwmavon	28
Vivian Row, Aberavon	9

Four and Fifth Year Programmes:

The fourth and fifth year programmes are as follows:—

Fourth Year:

Area:	No. of houses:
Balaclava, Taibach	16
Constant Hill, Taibach	2
Inkerman Row (East), Taibach	10
Commercial Road, Taibach	3
Merthyr Row, Cwmavon	7
Church Square, Cwmavon	13
London Row, Cwmavon	29
Cross Row, Cwmavon	16

Fifth Year:

Area:	No. of houses:
Penycae Row, Port Talbot	28
Lletty Harry, Port Talbot	14
Oakwood Row, Pontrhydyfen	29
Schoolroom Row, Pontrhydyfen	4
Corlannau, Aberavon	12

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

We were reluctantly obliged to institute the following prosecutions during the year:—

Offence.	Result.
Mr. William David Edwards, Prince of Wales Hotel, Water Street, Aberavon. Contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—unlawfully selling adulterated Whisky.	Fined £10.
Mr. William David Edwards, Prince of Wales Hotel, Water Street, Aberavon. Contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 — displaying a label which falsely described Whisky as 70° proof spirit, when it was in fact, 63.7 proof spirit.	Fined £5. (The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food was also informed of this case in accordance with Section 6 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955).
Mr. E. D. John, Cwmcclais Farm, Port Talbot — contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—selling two samples of milk which were deficient in milk fat to the extent of 27% in each case; unlawfully selling two samples of raw milk as pasteurised milk.	Fined total of £2 for selling milk deficient in milk fat. Fined total of £5 for selling milk without use of special designation. Fined total of £10 for selling milk not of the quality demanded, i.e. raw milk instead of pasteurised milk. Total penalty £17.
Structural defects at 5, Woodland Avenue, Margam, Port Talbot.	Order given for works to be completed within fourteen days. Costs awarded.

